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NO WISPS!

Franchises For 50 Years! Why Not Declare Them Perpetual?

CHAFF IN REVOLUTION'S PATH.

The Chicago "Democrat and Dispatch" Asks Section Chicago, S. L. P., to Assist in Circulating Petitions for a Scheme Styled "the Municipal Ownership of Street Railways"—The Section Answers Showing That There is No "Municipal Ownership" for Labor in it, and That the Scheme is a Veiled Struggle of Labor Fleecing Capitalist Concerns Among Themselves.

To the Public of Chicago:—

To those not in touch with the Socialist propaganda, to those in whose minds Socialism is vaguely defined as the operation of all industries by the Government, it would appear that any move toward municipalization was of necessity Socialistic, and should, therefore, command immediate and unequivocal Socialist support. That a party in whose platform there is a resolution demanding municipalization should withhold approval in such a case would seem paradoxical indeed.

Nevertheless, nothing can be more dangerous to the intelligent progress of the labor movement than the confusion which frequently results from the careless use of terms. The widest divergence of purpose is most effectively concealed when cloaked by familiar forms of expression that serve as political catch phrases for the unwary.

"Hay," remarks the master with a wink, "is really quite indispensable," and he skillfully dangles a wisp in front of the weary donkey's nose.

"In that we are agreed," sagely replies the donkey, wagging his long ears, and off he trots in the vain endeavor to reach it. In the end he discovers he has merely lugged his master's eggs to market the faster.

Much more important, therefore, than the proposition of municipalization is the purpose with which it is sought. By whom and in what spirit will it be carried out? In whose interests will it be administered? These are the vital questions.

The class-conscious Socialist asks them, knowing that the lines of the class struggle cannot be safely ignored. To do so would encourage false hopes. It could lead only to vagueness of purpose and confused action. Under a system of production dividing society into two classes, with interests diametrically opposed, the exploiter on one side, the exploited on the other, every economic question becomes of necessity a class question. To close the eyes to the fact does not alter it; it only makes the awakening the ruder. It is wiser to frankly accept it and act accordingly.

For this reason the Socialist Labor party offers no apology for considering municipalization strictly from the standpoint of the exploited wage-working class and its interests. Not in a narrow spirit, but from conviction that there is no right superior to that of the class which performs the useful work and produces the wealth of the world.

By numerical predominance alone, daily increasing, the welfare and interests of this class become more and more identical with those of organized society as a whole. To awaken this class to a consciousness of its true position; to inspire it with the knowledge of the revolutionary part it is destined to play in the generation of society; to lead it in the conquest of civil powers that the supremacy of its interests may be established; this is the aim and mission of the Socialist Labor party.

Municipalization in the hands of the capitalist is a radically different proposition from municipalization as advocated by the Socialists. Municipal ownership of public utilities appeals with peculiar force to the so-called middle class, that fringe of the capitalist class composed of petty traders and small property holders.

For this section to maintain itself as a part of the exploiting class some measure of relief has become an urgent necessity. Its purpose is not progressive but reactionary. It advocates municipal control in much the same spirit that it blindly whacks at the trusts and the department stores.

There is a vague hope that in some way the channels of concentration can be blocked and the flow of wealth sluiced into their little starving patches. But of what concern is it to the exploited class, from which this wealth is squeezed, whether it flows in a few broad streams or is ditched into a thousand petty rivulets?

Another object the middle class seeks to gain through municipalization is a measure of relief from the burden of taxation which falls on its straitened incomes with particular severity. By the substitution of the municipality for the capitalist it would without compunction squeeze out surplus values for its own salvation. But again what interest have the propertyless wage workers in questions of taxation? Deprived of the wealth they produce, what is it to them how the spoils are divided; what care they whether the mill or the shoot robber has to pay the rent?

It is the realization that effective appeal to the wage workers for support is impossible on these lines, that brings out the promise of lower fares, a pittance by which poverty and misery are to be abated. What a mockery to the wage workers! On one hand stands the landlord, quick to appropriate to himself through increased rents whatever tends to enhance the value of his property.

On the other hand the employer, equally ready to readjust wages to any decrease in the cost of living at the earliest opportunity. How long, then, could he hope to benefit by it, should this doubtful promise be made good?

But at least the street car employé will receive better wages, work shorter hours and have greater security in his job (?). Truly, promises are prolific when there is an ax needs grinding. But what assurance has the worker of their fulfillment under capitalist Government? Does past experience give reason for expecting such concessions from a Government run on "business principles," from a class that is aiming primarily at a source of revenue to lessen its taxes? Hardly! To the capitalist, Government is good in proportion to the economy of its administration. The public employé becomes his political lackey. Point out a single prominent capitalist who, in the present agitation for municipalization, has uttered a word of protest or of indignation at the slavish conditions, the long hours of work or the beggarly pay of the street car employés. Would they not have spoken had these things seemed evil to them, had they really considered the interests of these workers of any moment?

To sum it up, the Socialist sees in the present agitation an effort on the part of a section of the capitalist class to bring about municipalization because of certain direct benefits that it expects to secure for itself in doing so. It would supplant the individual capitalist exploiter by the political organization of capitalism, and thereby effect certain financial readjustments strictly within the limits of the capitalist class. What interest, then, have the class-conscious workers to meddle with such a mess, and be used as cat's-paws? Will it simplify the eventual transformation from Capitalism to Socialism, though its promoters by no means intend it so? Then can we view the process with equanimity. But, even so, does the trust. Shall we, therefore, circulate petitions for the formation of trusts?

The Socialist Labor party cannot afford to waste its energies. It would be false to the interests of the wage workers did it lead them after a will-o'-the-wisp of barren municipalism. It would stultify itself if by supporting such a movement, it encouraged the belief that the benefits promised the workers were possible of realization under capitalist rule.

So long as the capitalist class controls the administrative machinery, so long will it appropriate to itself the advantages arising from municipalization. But let the working class once organize under the banner of the class-conscious Socialist Labor party, conquering the powers of State for the assertion of its economic supremacy, then, indeed, will municipalization prove a shield to the worker, and at the same time a lash for the scourging of capitalism from the temple which it defiles.

The rage, the despair of the middle class as it sees this seemingly golden opportunity for its rehabilitation slipping through its fingers for perhaps a generation to come is readily comprehended. Outwitted and defrauded though it feels itself to be, yet it dares not question the finality of the acts of the rascals chosen as fit representatives of its interests. It dares not cut the mesh of legality. That were to invite chaos. Let it squirm, then, caught in the act of its own contriving.

Franchises for fifty years! Why not declare them perpetual? Barriers to the capitalist reformer—chaff before the whirlwind of the Socialist Revolution!

SECTION CHICAGO, S. L. P.

ANOTHER SQUEEZE.

PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.—The savings banks have reduced the interest to 3½ per cent. A law is being prepared to reduce the legal interest to 5 per cent. The people who have mortgages on their homes will welcome this as a relief, but what does it really mean? The trust companies formed commence to do practically all the banking business. They are lending out money on bond and mortgage. The middle class money man can not afford to have his income cut down, he cancels the mortgages or withdraws his money from the savings banks, to invest it in better paying industrial enterprise stock in the stock of some monopoly. The trust companies will furnish the money to pay for the cancelled mortgages. But just now here is where the joke comes in. The same capitalists who control the trust companies also control the industrial monopolies. Now the middle class money man has got his head in the sling. He has taken his money from real estate security, where a dollar's worth was worth a dollar, and transferred to a water stock monopoly, where he only gets 25 per cent. or less of hard pan value. But not satisfied with that, the capitalist is going to fleece him out of his 25 per cent. value altogether. The industrial monopolistic capitalist pays a labor fakir to create a strike or he calls up a fake war like the Arbuckle sugar trust war and the small money man gets squeezed out to enter the class of the proletariat. The quicker it comes, the better, for the quicker the agony will be over. Let her rip or let her soar.

C. C. CROLLY.

SOCIAL CONTRASTS

Which We Are Striving to Wipe Out.

Look at this Picture

Bulletin of Luxury!

MRS. M'KINLEY'S QUIET DAY.

She does Not Leave the Hotel Except to Take a Drive.

Receives Very Few Visitors.

Chief Steward Lace Spares No Pains to Make the Menus Attractive—Shopping Tour To-day.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—Roses in infinite variety, carnations of a dozen shades, and hundreds of sturdy chrysanthemums, all fresh from New York hot-houses, greeted Mrs. William McKinley when she awoke in her apartments at the Windsor Hotel yesterday morning. As if by magic, her rooms had been transformed into a veritable cavern of flowers some time during the night, and by hands that knew well the touches of artistic effect. The flowers were spread everywhere in rich profusion, and were a complete surprise to her.

Mrs. McKinley and her party will remain in New York only a few days longer. Yesterday the mistress of the White House spent her time in idle enjoyment, and to-day the tedious pastime of Christmas shopping will be commenced in earnest. Mrs. McKinley will not accept invitations, entertain, or attend public amusements during her stay, as she is still in mourning. Her callers yesterday were Mrs. W. L. Strong, wife of the ex-Mayor; Mrs. Fischer Hansen, Mrs. Isaac Brokaw, and Mrs. John Burke.

It was 8 o'clock sharp when Mrs. McKinley arose. Half an hour later she was welcomed in the drawing room by Mrs. Abner McKinley, Mrs. Stephen Rand, and Miss Katherine Endsley. She went direct to the telephone, which connects with a private wire to the White House, turned the little crank, and smilingly waited for a reply. The President was evidently awaiting the message at the other end, for in another instant Mrs. McKinley said:

"Yes. It is such a lovely day in New York this morning. The sun is shining brightly, and my rooms are filled with fresh flowers. I would like to stay for a month." The President jokingly announced that Congress was in session, and that it was necessary for all members of the Presidential family to be at home.

Breakfast was served at 9 o'clock sharp. Instructions had been given to Daniel Lace, the chief steward, to spare no pains in making attractive the menus for the Presidential party. Lace is an Ohio man, and he went to every extreme to get the best of hot-house fruits and strip the market of its choicest bits for the distinguished guests. The first meal of the day was served on a table strewn with violet and yellow chrysanthemum petals. The new service of thin China, touched with deep crimson and old gold, was used, and the menu cards, of heavy, dove-colored Bristol board, printed in the ever-predominating robin's-egg blue, contained the following dishes:

Hot-house strawberries.
Imported Hamburg grapes.
Boiled white fish. Point shirley.
Asparagus omelette.
Broiled chicken on toast.
Potatoes a la Windsor.
Porterhouse steak and fresh mushrooms.
Buckwheat cakes a la McKinley.
Vermont maple syrup.
Coffee. Wafers. Cocoa.

After breakfast Mrs. McKinley and her party went into their private parlor, where they talked and chatted and listened to some vocal selections by Miss Mabel McKinley, the daughter of Abner McKinley. The young woman has just returned from Italy, where she developed a soprano voice of remarkable power. She sang a number of operatic selections and then whistled, accompanying herself on the piano. None of the ladies went out in the morning. They roamed among the flowers until it was time to dress for luncheon which was served at 1:30 p. m. Besides her own party, Mrs. McKinley had as guests Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. M. A. Stafford.

Luncheon over, a carriage was ordered and two high-stepping bays took the four ladies from Washington through Central Park. Mrs. McKinley enjoyed the ride hugely. When she returned to the hotel she said that she was delighted with the crisp air and the sunshine, and if it had not been for tiring the horses she would have driven longer. For an hour after her return to the hotel she received one or two callers, and then retired for awhile to rest before the dinner hour.

That meal was served in the most elaborate style. Quantities of Bride roses small and fragrant, were strewn over the table in a manner similar to the decorations at breakfast. Again did Chief Steward Lace endeavor to prepare an elaborate menu. The menu was to contain only eight courses, but each had to be an example of culinary art. When Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Abner McKinley, and Miss Endsley sat down at the table the following menu, printed on small cards of the favorite color of the President's wife, was presented:

Oysters in the shell.
Bisque of oyster crabs.
Turban of halibut a la Richmond.
Hot-house tomatoes and cucumbers.
Sweetbreads Jardiniere.
Sherbet.
Canvasback duck roasted.
Windsor salad.
Omelete Souffle.
Coffee.

And then at This.

Bulletin of Misery!

STARVED TO DEATH IN STREETS

Driscoll's Body Identified by Registration Card Illegally Obtained.

David G. Driscoll, fifty-five years old, who had been begging in the neighborhood of 12th avenue and 52nd street for a week, was found dead from starvation yesterday afternoon in a lot near that corner. He had been seen staggering into the lot half an hour before. When the body was found a Roosevelt Hospital ambulance was summoned. The surgeon would not, according to the rules of the hospital, name any cause of the death, but the police said the man had certainly died from starvation.

The body was identified by means of a certificate of registration found in a pocket. It gave Driscoll's residence as 359 West 53rd street. John J. Curry, who keeps a saloon there, said that Driscoll was an old car driver. He lived in New Jersey. Curry said some of Superintendent McCullagh's deputies had been watching Driscoll, and had so frightened him that he had not voted.

A FAMILY'S UNHAPPY PLIGHT.

The Father Died Five Weeks Ago, the Mother Is Now Dying, and the Children Are Objects of Charity.

The lot of the Mastermacher family had always been a hard one, but when the father, a hard-working fellow, died five weeks ago, bad as it had been, it changed for the worse. The chief bread winner gone, the family was forced to depend upon the meagre earnings of the eldest children, a girl of twenty-one and a boy of nineteen, to keep the wolf from the door.

But fate was merciless with the Mastermachers. Misfortune followed misfortune. Hardly had the father been laid in his grave when the two eldest children, the only supports of the family, were thrown out of employment. Then the mother, Sidonia Mastermacher, became ill with blood-poisoning and rheumatism. And lastly came the landlord clamoring for his rent for the three cheerless rooms which the Mastermachers occupied on the top floor of the tenement, at 43 Jamaica avenue, Brooklyn.

There was no money forthcoming, and on Friday last the Mastermachers, with the few belongings they had not disposed of to raise money for bread, were put out into the street. Sick, homeless, and without a penny in the world, Mrs. Mastermacher gathered her hungry little brood about her and sought a refuge from the cold in a wagon shed across the street.

All day they huddled together there, famished and half frozen. When night came they crept into a vacant house adjoining the one from which they had been evicted. Some one saw them enter the place, and took it upon himself to inform the agent for the building, David J. Molloy, of Atlantic and Snediker avenues.

Mr. Molloy hurried around to the place and found Mrs. Mastermacher and her children in a room on the top floor. The mother lay on a pile of ragged clothing on the floor in a half-unconscious condition. The children were gathered about her, crying from cold and hunger.

Mr. Molloy enlisted the sympathy of the neighbors in behalf of the unhappy family and then informed the police of the Liberty Avenue Station of their plight. Sergeant McCormick made an investigation and then summoned an ambulance from St. Mary's Hospital. The ambulance surgeon refused to remove Mrs. Mastermacher, saying that it was a case for the Charities Department.

Sergeant McCormick saw to it that the family were made comfortable for the night, and on Saturday the Charities Department was informed of their plight. On Saturday night Mrs. Mastermacher was removed to the Kings County Hospital, and the two youngest children, Frederick, fourteen years old, and Mary, eight years old, were turned over to the care of the Children's Society.

The two eldest children disappeared after their mother was taken to the hospital

At the hospital last night it was said that Mrs. Mastermacher was in a dying condition.

"Mamma," said a little girl, who trotted alongside of a haggard looking woman, pointing at the raw steaks, pies and other delicacies tastefully displayed at the show window of a Bowery restaurant, "Mamma, look at all those things to eat at that window, and we have had nothing all day, let's go in and take some." The mother wiped off a tear, as she took hold of the child's arm, and hastened her steps on—whither?

RHODE ISLAND TEXTILE WORKERS.

A Terse Call to Organize their Fellows Against Their Class Traitors—Arthur Keep's Tour.

Comrades:—By the recent so-called convention of the American Federation of Labor at Kansas City, we have again had pointed out to us the necessity of grasping clearly the situation. The predominant tone at the Kansas City chatter-feast, gotten together by the Gomperses, Loyds, McGuires and their ilk, was one of snarling, spitting, and howling at the to them frightful spectacle of the nascent tendency amongst the workers to set themselves to the task of solving the Labor Problem. True to the past record of their tribe and their necessity to earn their wages with our common exploiters, the phrase-mongering Gomperians did not let the opportunity slip of aiming a stab at our efforts to free ourselves from the thral of them and their likes, the capitalist politicians. Secure from retaliation behind the shield of the capitalist press, they vilified, slandered, and denounced the Socialist Movement; and the capitalist papers assiduously published throughout the land these denunciations of working class politics, hoping to influence the rank and file of the workers with the utterances of their supposed leaders. An edifying spectacle this of the collusion of labor fakirs and capitalist press! From Gompers down to his ward-heeling satellites, these cowardly betrayers of the working class, see their dreams of political rewards for bunco-steering the workers, from commissionerships imigration to jugglerships of spittoons in city halls vanishing like the morning mists. Hence the nowls against the spirit of an intelligent labor movement, in which they discern, as Brutus in the apparition of Cæsar, the dreaded premonition of their Philippi.

Here in Providence, the natural center of the Rhode Island labor movement, we have had ample opportunity to observe the effects of a toleration of the genus labor crook, from the rise of the Knights of Labor to the present. And we speak advisedly when we say that the history of old time unionism here is one of fraud, peculation, and toadyism, as the leading facts; and of notoriety hungry, office-hungry, and frothy blatherskites as the leading personages. These apt disciples of the Gomperian school have done all in their power to disgrace and besmirch the character of economic organization. Yet after all the exhibitions of low intrigue and bare-faced robbery, it certainly testifies to the inherent vitality of the genuine principle of trades unionism, that it should again and again arise from the gutter into which it was debased by the despicable fishers in the waters of economic disturbance.

With this factor we must deal, recognizing that the trades union is an economic necessity; we must now take our stand as to whether to tolerate the traitors as in the past and so invite confusion, or to scourge these mercenary adventurers from the Temple which they disgrace. We must finally settle whether the trades union shall be a lever to raise the workers; or, as in the past, a lever, whose fulcrum is the neck of labor, to boost frauds, like Powderly, from the machine shop into a Commissionership of Immigration, and Gompers from a cigar factory into a lucrative office with prospects of capitalist favors as a reward for his rigid "conservatism."

Who but you, comrades, are to clear the field of these disgusting pests? Who but you from whose eyes the scales have fallen should stand between the vile ambitions of the labor crook and the working class? No host will drop from the skies to fight our battles, we must bend to the work ourselves.

We are aware that there is a feeling of apathy amongst the workers with respect to trades unions; but is this to be marvelled at when the honest enthusiasm of the masses has so often been transmuted to disgust by the contaminating contact of the fake leader? That when these vermin have been disposed of it is possible to knit together the members of the trades for mutual enlightenment and protection, we have proven to our satisfaction in Providence, where we have at present clean and vigorous economic organization under the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.

In pursuance to the experience we have acquired in the Labor Movement, the Providence Local Alliances have at considerable expense arranged an agitation tour for Comrade Arthur Keep in Rhode Island. In order that this work may be as successful as possible, we urge the comrades in the places where he is to speak to lend us their hearty support by distributing advertisements, talking the matter over with those they meet, etc.

The tour, so far as arranged, is as follows:

Providence—Tuesday, Jan. 3, Textile Hall, to members of Textile Union.
Central Falls—Wednesday, Jan. 4, Temple of Honor Hall, Central and High streets, at 8 p. m.
Providence—Thursday, Jan. 5, to machinists, 8 p. m.
Woonsocket—Friday, Jan. 6, La Fontaine Hall, 26 Gain street, 8 p. m.
Pascoag—Sunday, Jan. 8, Music Hall, 2:30 p. m.
Providence—Sunday, Jan. 8, Textile Hall, 8 p. m.
Pawtucket—Monday, Jan. 9, Mule Spinners' Hall, Main street, 8 p. m.

Committee on Agitation, Textile Workers' Union.
ANTHONY McDONALD, Secretary.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

FURTHER OFFICIAL RETURNS OF THE VOTE.

Tabulated Statement of the Socialist Poll in Minnesota and Ohio by Counties, and Compared.

Minnesota Official Returns.

Counties:	1898.	1898.
Aitken	4	...
Anoka	1	4
Becker	5	9
Beltrami	1	2
Benton	3	15
Big Stone	12	5
Blue Earth	14	9
Brown	4	5
Carlton	5	3
Carver	5	4
Cass	2	17
Chippewa	8	2
Chisago	..	4
Clay	17	7
Cook	..	1
Cottonwood	1	2
Crow Wing	19	18
Dakota	21	31
Dodge	4	2
Douglas	3	10
Faribault	4	9
Fillmore	5	17
Freeborne	4	17
Goodhue	12	23
Grant	1	2
Hennepin	254	420
Houston	3	6
Hubbard	2	3
Isanti	1	7
Itasca	12	10
Jackson	4	11
Kanaber	1	2
Kandiyohi	3	1
Kittson	6	4
Lac qui Parle	4	3
Lake	8	16
Le Seuer	9	16
Lincoln	10	5
Lyon	13	3
McLeod	11	17
Marshall	3	8
Martin	6	4
Meeker	9	13
Mille Lacs	1	12
Morrison	10	24
Mower	6	..
Murray	3	..
Nicollet	3	5
Nobles	7	11
Norman	5	4
Olmstead	9	15
Otter Tail	18	41
Pine	11	11
Pipestone	6	4
Polk	38	23
Pope	4	1
Ramsey	250	385
Red Lake	(part of Polk)	16
Redwood	4	2
Renville	6	4
Rice	17	16
Rock	5	4
Roseau	4	6
St. Louis	40	70
Scott	10	12
Sherburne	8	5
Sibley	1	8
Stearns	21	42
Steele	6	9
Stevens	2	11
Swift	4	1
Todd	9	20
Traverse	12	3
Wabasha	8	19
Wadena	2	6
Waseca	6	9
Washington	8	13
Watonwan	2	3
Wilkin	5	17
Winona	30	63
Wright	10	10
Yellow Medicine	2	..
Totals	1,125	1,687

Official Election Returns of Ohio.

Counties:	Pres. 1896.	Gov. 1897.	Sec. of State. 1898.
Adams	2	..	6
Allen	4	10	60
Ashland	..	2	1
Ashtabula	3	15	27
Athens	47	90	95
Auglaize	..	2	6
Belmont	5	32	42
Brown	3	2	..
Butler	7	69	98
Carroll	..	12	20
Champaign	1	2	1
Clark	11	51	40
Clermont	..	1	9
Clinton	..	1	5
Columbiana	20	137	197
Coshocton	1	7	9
Crawford	2	10	29
Cuyahoga (Cleveland)	484	1,614	2,254
Darke	..	2	7
Defiance	..	8	12
Deleware	1	1	8
Erie (Sandusky)	57	94	76
Fairfield	..	6	6
Fayette	..	1	1
Franklin (Columbus)	11	53	126
Fulton	1	..	..
Gallia	1	1	2
Geauga	3	..	..
Greene	3	7	40
Guernsey	1	39	13
Hamilton (Cincinnati)	201	352	746
Hancock	3	28	13
Hardin	..	3	2
Harrison	1	1	3
Henry	2	2	1
Highland	..	1	18
Hocking	5	36	9
Homes	..	1	..
Huron	..	4	6
Jackson	3	8	11
Jefferson	2	15	9
Knox	1	3	7
Lake	2	2	8
Lawrence	2	..	..
Licking	..	4	6
Logan	1	..	7
Lorain	6	23	58
Lucas (Toledo)	66	97	172
Madison	..	1	..
Mahoning	5	36	87
Marion	..	1	4
Medina	3	45	47
Meigs	5	32	27
Mercer	..	1	3
Miami	2	5	9
Monroe	..	3	2
Montgomery (Dayton)	68	200	344
Morgan	..	1	2
Morrow	2	1	4
Muskingum	1	14	13
Noble	..	..	5
Ottawa	..	..	1
Paulding	..	2	8
Perry	23	102	81
Pickaway	3	1	1
Pike	..	..	6
Portage	3	36	82
Preble	2	..	4
Putnam	1	8	7
Richland	..	5	4
Ross	..	8	6
Sandusky	13	14	14
Scioto	3	18	7
Seneca	5	10	29
Shelby	..	1	2
Stark (Canton and Massillion)	54	505	520
Summit (Akron)	17	80	176
Trumbull	8	29	24
Tuscarawas	21	77	118
Union	..	..	3
Van Wert	2	2	4
Vinton	..	..	1
Warren	2	8	8
Washington	1	4	5
Wayne	9	17	19
Williams	..	2	9
Wood	3	9	11
Wyandot	..	1	2
Total	1,168	4,247	5,798

THE PEOPLE.

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ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL NEW YORK CITY

SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential)	2,068
In 1890	13,331
In 1892 (Presidential)	21,157
In 1894	33,183
In 1896 (Presidential)	36,564
In 1897	55,673

Fear is an instructor of great sagacity, and the herald of all revolutions. One thing he teaches, that there is rottenness where he appears. He is a carrion crow, and though you see not well what he hovers for, there is death somewhere. Our property is timid, our laws are timid, our cultivated classes are timid. Fear for ages has boded, and mowed, and gibbered over government and property. That obscene bird is not there for nothing. He indicates great wrongs which must be revised.

EMERSON.

EUROPEANIZING WITH A VENGEANCE.

The latest occurrence in connection with our march towards our "manifest destiny" is the discovery made that the mail from the Philippines is being tampered with by United States authorities. Letters sent home by our soldiers around Manila have been carefully opened and resealed, and whole pages were abstracted. As far as the inquiry goes it is established that the pages that were abstracted contained local information that it was undesirable should reach the public that must now be nursed on Expansion Pap.

It is a favorite method with many a European Government to violate the secrecy of the mail; secrets are thus discovered; prosecutions are thus made possible; and the hand of the Ruler is thus extended into the most private corners of the home. All this is necessary to usurped power: the clearer the usurpation becomes and, accordingly, the more "disloyal" the oppressed grow, all the more necessary is the method.

Our Ruling Class is rapidly Europeanizing us. Only the other day standing armies were decried as "un-American," large navies as "snobbery," colonial possessions as "enervating tyranny." But suddenly all these objections are dropped, and "our manifest destiny" makes us take up these formerly objectionable things. Why is this thus? Is it a fad, a whim? No; it is an additional illustration of the fact that opinions are not the foundation but the reflexion of material class interests.

The capitalist class can no longer itself consume all the wealth it plunders the working class of; even if it riot in debauchery and luxury, the heap of plunder waxes ever larger; what shall be done therewith? to let it rot won't do: that would result in positive inconvenience, besides, the economic laws, working at one end of the line, and that produce at the other end of the line what is called greed,—the driving and straining of the competition that, despite concentration of individual industries, keeps the pot of the Capitalist Class boiling—, compels the Capitalist to turn his plunder to profit; if he does not he may find his plundering power itself maimed. As the result of this markets have to be opened. The home market being scuttled by starvation wages, foreign markets become needful. Once landed outside of our own boundaries, our Capitalist Class finds itself at the international banquet table, there it can't sit down except it can maintain its seat, and it can not maintain its seat without it is armed to the teeth. Thus the material needs of the Capitalist Class forthwith molds its notions of "Americanism," and what was "un-American," etc', before its needs required it, promptly becomes the pink of Americanism just as soon as needed by the material interests of Capitalism. Thus navies and armies become the acme of patriotism, and thus also the tampering with the mails becomes a necessity, a necessary prop.

We are getting there. One by one the things that were considered peculiarly European and correspondingly un-American are being naturalized here. And this is as it should be. But so, likewise, Socialism, once decried as utterly un-American has earned its rights of citizenship. Similar causes, similar effects.

As we go to press we learn that the Marlboro, Mass., striking shoemakers, made desperate by the failure of the false hopes they had been fed on and infuriated against the S. L. P. by the Skeffingtons, Murrays and such other noted labor fakirs, came nearly mobbing Mrs. Martha Moore Avery. Details are imperfect, yet interesting.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The Pop Pittsburg, Kans., "Pittsburg Kansan" lashes itself well when it says:

The Kansas legislature now in session was elected affirmatively—by the people; its successor was elected negatively—by default.

Can there be a better evidence of the trothlessness of a legislature, that, elected affirmatively by the people, has so completely broken its word as to disgust the people to the extent of their staying away and leaving in the lurch the body they had themselves elected?

With the single correction of the Washington State vote, which is given below as "approximately 1,000," and which was over 1,300, the following from the Duluth, Minn., "Labor World" deserves reproduction:

The surprisingly large vote which the young Socialist Labor party cast in such agricultural States as Washington and Kansas, coupled with the decay of the old Populist party and the almost general defeat of the fusion forces at the late election, is a subject of general comment in the reform press. In both the above mentioned States the S. L. P. entered the field the first time this fall, and in Kansas the party cast nearly 700 votes, while in the State of Washington the vote is approximately 1,000. This large vote is evidently due to the fact that the farmers and mechanics in the Western States who have hitherto supported middle-of-the-road Populism are beginning to vote the S. L. P. ticket. Since the election such a middle-of-the-road paper as "Living Issues" of Salt Lake City, Utah, has openly given up the Populist ghost and advocates voting for Socialism.

In a squib, in which allusion is made to the political debate at the recent convention of the A. F. of L., the "New Yorker Volkszeitung" of the 19th of last month had this to say:

Does it not now dawn upon certain of our own comrades that their own favorite, frequently untactful form of attack against the non-Socialist trades union movement, and, in connection therewith, their own separate trades union tactics, has placed in the hands of the corrupt foes of Socialism in the convention at Kansas City the very weapons that could not fail of effect upon the indifferent element present, and that thereby helped to retard the flow of the Socialist current?

What were those "tactless forms" of attack, those "weapons placed in the hands of the foes of Socialism" by "certain of our comrades"? The paper gives no hint. Indeed, to sustain its position against the party tactics, the "Volkszeitung" would have to throw itself upon the preposterous charges that flowed out of Gompers' impure mouth, and that the capitalist press, as a matter of course, endorsed by giving them circulation to against Socialism itself; that, however, would be treason; whatever else the paper is guilty of to the injury of the Labor Movement, as we have shown, and shall show again, it is not guilty of intentional treason. Has it any facts to base ITS anti-party policy opinion on? None that will hold water. And yet, in a sense exactly the opposite of its own, there IS truth in the charge that the foes of Socialism at the convention had been given weapons in hand by certain of our comrades.

The political debate cast its shadow before it. In expectation of it, P. J. McGuire was anxiously looked for. Some matters were even delayed until his arrival. Indeed, McGuire was to be the chief Socialist-killer of the occasion. He sailed in; he chased the party up hill and down vale; he larrumed it to his heart's content, but his chief point was the unsteadiness and vacillation of "reform movements" (among which he ranked the party) and —, according to the "Volkszeitung's" report itself of December 17, he carried his denunciations no further than down to 1888. There he stopped short.

McGuire was by far the shrewdest of all the assembled fakirs on the occasion. They, each of whom carried the mark of cane across his brow, left there by the party since it dropped its old unsteady gate,—they might be foolish enough to point their finger to their sores and put their head where it was sure to be hit again. Not so McGuire. He did not care to call attention to the purple cane marks he carries, by venturing upon a discussion of modern occurrences. He chose safer field; perfectly safe field; he picked up his weapons from among those furnished before and down to 1888, in other words, furnished by the party in its salad days; in the days of its greenness on the Movement in America; in the days of its weakness, its unsteadiness, its proneness to see possible Socialists where there were only dupers, as exemplified by its being roped in by the Greenback movement; in the days of its gullibleness, when the fakirs could and did impose upon it; in the days when, of unsteady and vacillating step, it could be ranked with "reforms," was easily "absorbed," and, not yet trusting itself, sought to lean on anything that came along, fearing ever separate, free and independent existence; in short, he picked the weapons relegated to the past since '90, and, finally, solemnly thrown aside for ever as stupid and poltroonish in '96!—Such were the weapons he used against Socialism, and it never will "dawn upon the party" again to furnish him with the like.

It is not THE PEOPLE'S purpose to toss the "Volkszeitung" in a blanket, or to set it scooting, looking for pretences to excuse its inability to defend rash views that facts reject and escape justifying its shy-cock criticisms of the party's tactics. Such game would not be worth the candle. In returning this week to the subject, already broached last week, and in reserving freedom to take up the matter again, if necessary, the purpose is higher.

In the first place, the past history of the party can not be too frequently rehearsed; it is instructive at every turn, all the more in sight of the large numbers of recruits that are joining the party and whose future conduct must be steadied by the light of the experience of the past.

In the second place, an earnest note of protest,—as loud as utterable, as emphatic as makable—, is due at this season against that flippant spirit that will recklessly slapdash opinions as the maggot bites it on matters of weight in a movement of the most serious character; against that cringing policy that can only embolden the foe, that makes not one new friend, and that renders lukeward the friends already gained; against that foolishly personal notion whose favorite style is to set up its own whims against the average and collective wisdom of the party,—and thus "retard the flow of the Socialist current."

Of these sins, serious and harmful, the "Volkszeitung" is guilty. To call attention to them is no less painful to us then to it; but THE PEOPLE was not born for fair weather and parade; moreover, it never mistook itself for an END; it is a MEANS—a means to hew a path clear across the thick underbrush and rubbish that has settled on the Labor Movement in America, thanks to just the old party-tactics that some are still coquetting with, and that none more than the party's foes would wish to see re-introduced. In doing this disagreeable though needful work, thorns may prick; it is their way; but the work of the woodman survives while the thorns are cast into the fire.

Thus comments the New York "Evening Post" upon events in South Dakota:

South Dakota affords a striking illustration of the unsettled conditions which prevail in the newer commonwealths of the West. It is only eight years since it came into the Union as a State under a new Constitution, and yet there are newspapers which already advocate the framing of another Constitution. In these eight years many amendments have been proposed by different Legislatures, some of which have been adopted, while others were rejected. Last November an amendment was adopted establishing the initiative and referendum as a feature of the Government, another was adopted introducing the dispensary system of treating the liquor problem, and a third was rejected which would have given women the right to vote. Yet even now people are calling for the resubmission to the people of all three of these questions, while other amendments of the Constitution are urged. In despair a leading newspapers says that "the best way to take care of these questions properly and to remedy the inconsistencies of the present Constitution, is that a new constitutional convention should be had, and the Legislature should provide for such a convention in the way prescribed by the Constitution." It is hard to see, however, why a new Constitution should prove any more satisfactory than the old one to a people who are so volatile as the inhabitants of South Dakota.

"Volatile" is the name here given to the Dakota population that, feeling the shoe pinches but not yet knowing where, is busy at changing forms of law, not yet having discovered that, not forms, but the substance must be overthrown. But the sneer of the "Evening Post" comes with bad grace from the organ of the "gentlemen" who with equal "volatileness" are in this State tinkering on laws, such as the Primary law, and who, although enjoying better opportunities to know, imagine that the leakages in the present social system can be "propped."

The Minneapolis, Minn., "Tocsin", publishes this item under the title of "Two Incidents":

The St. Paul "Globe" of December 10 says:

"The Chicago Great Western Railway Company obtained a verdict in its favor yesterday in the suit brought by Patrick F. Nancy for loss of his leg and wherein he claimed $25,000 damages. The case has been on trial at Winona in the United States Circuit Court before Judge Lochren for the past three days. Dan W. Lawler, solicitor for the Great Western, tried the case for the company. The Jury brought in a verdict for defendants."

The Chicago Great Western, more, perhaps, than any other road in the country, is an English institution. Dan Lawler is the faithful servant of this British corporation.

Only three weeks ago, this same Dan Lawler delivered an impassioned oration in Market Hall, St. Paul, in denunciation of the English Government, and was applauded to the echo by his Irish audience.

So long as the railroad workers allow themselves to be misled on a nationality issue by the paid tools of their oppressors, what right have they to complain that they are abused and maimed with impunity?

The London, England, "Justice" quotes from the "Morning Advertiser," a London Conservative paper devoted to the liquor interest, the following passage in commenting on the South Wales coal dispute:

It may seem to be a drastic remedy, but it is far from being impossible, that our Government may one day be compelled to buy up certain coal-pits and manage them as State concerns, as a safeguard against the national humiliation which would follow a stoppage in supply to our warships in the day of battle. There would be nothing incongruous in departmental control of our national stock of fuel for the furnaces of our navy any more than that of powder, shot, and shell for the ordnance thereof.

"National humiliation" is certainly good. Guess one of these days the people will realize the national humiliation of having the food, clothing, happiness supply of their workers stopped at the will of a few capitalists, and will put an end to a humiliation along side of which the "humiliation of having battleships without coal supply" is as not worth considering.

BOSTON, MASS.

THE PEOPLE is for sale at the following places:

Geo. G. Leavitt, 182 Harrison avenue.
John Braithwaite, 84 West Canton street.
Cohens, 985 Washington street.

AS TO ARMORIES.

Contrast Between the Record of an Honorable Socialist and a Dishonorable Place-Hunter.

The conduct of Mr. James F. Carey, in voting for a $15,000 appropriation for an Armory in Haverhill, has been the subject of a large number of letters to this office, asking for information. Among the latest letters received is the following:

Ediotr THE PEOPLE.—Being a new subscriber to THE PEOPLE I have followed with interest the criticism on Mr. Jas. Carey, of Haverhill, in reference to his voting for an Armory appropriation and in my opinion he made a mistake in doing so. Yet a friend of mine here in Newark, who claims to be a Social Democrat, informs me that Mr. Carey was under the laws of Massachusetts bound to vote as he did, and that were a Socialist elected here in this State, where we have Armories also, the same action would likely be taken, and that in Paterson there was a new Armory built during the time the Socialist Matthew Maguire was a member of the Board of Aldermen of that city, so being a new subscriber, as stated above, and not acquainted with the facts, will you kindly inform me through the letter box, or otherwise, as to the position taken by Alderman Maguire when the matter was before the City Council of Paterson, N. J., and oblige.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES DEVINE.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 24.

The questions here put deserve a fuller answer than the Letter Box will afford space to.

In Paterson, N. J., the militia companies of the Second New Jersey Regiment for a number of years had their Armory for the purpose of drilling and arranging of their social entertainments, where the local capitalist sprigs could show off their epaulettes and uniforms in one of the large halls of the city, the Board of Alderman paying the rent of the same ($1,200 per year).

There never had been any question as to the right of the city to pay this bill until Comrade Maguire entered the Board of Aldermen. Shortly after his appearance in that body the usual bill for the yearly rent was presented, and, as was customary, motion made to refer to the Finance Committee, and if found correct, paid. Comrade Maguire immediately made the legal point, that the city had nothing to do with the payment of State debts; that the militia were a State organization under the command of the Governor, and neither the Mayor of the city, the Sheriff of the county, or Chief of Police had any authority over them; that the city charter contemplated no such organization, deeming that ample powers were vested in the Mayor to keep the peace by the appointment of special policemen for that purpose, likewise the Sheriff of Passaic County was empowered to appoint deputies if required; that such an organization as the militia had shown itself to be in New York and Pennsylvania a provoker of disorder and a standing menace to the working class. The motion to refer to Finance Committee was carried, but the bill was NOT PAID.

The following year, the bill came up again, this time for $2,400, and was AGAIN DEFEATED, the City Counsel stating on request of Alderman Maguire for an opinion that the city had no legal right to pay the bill, and it was not paid, to the great disgust of the "Generals," "Colonels," "Majors," etc., who stated that "this would be the last time we will have to ask the city as the State authorities are about to erect a large and commodious Armory for the Second Regiment in this city."

This new building was started by the local capitalists FURNISHING the land and THEMSELVES ADVANCING THE MONEY before the appropriation was made by the State Legislature, the pretext being made that "times being dull, it would give employment to a great number of men who would be otherwise idle and starving." Maguire ridiculed the whole scheme; he showed up their false pretense of wanting to employ labor unless it was to skin them by profits for contractors, etc.; he quoted the Bible where Joseph read Pharoahs dream of the lean and fat kine, how he stored up the corn for the 7 years of famine; and he showed that under this infernal capitalist system, whose periodic panics were no dream, the necessity was rather for large buildings, such as this new Armory, to store corn in for the people to eat instead of guns to kill them.

Later the superintendent of the Passaic Rolling Mill Company appeared before the Board of Aldermen to get permission to lay tracks in the streets so that flat cars might bring the large trusses for the roof from the rolling mill to the Armory and Alderman Maguire filed a counter petition of the trade unions against granting the same, and he again stated that the promotors of this building stated that their object was to employ the idle labor of the city: he went into statistics and showed in comparison the small number of men required to build these trusses complete, ready to place on the building with the use of the machinery in rolling mill with its bull riveting machines, furnaces, shears, and great cranes to lift the whole truss on the three or more flat cars necessary to bring them to the building. Then, if the object was, as stated, to employ labor, the greater the number of iron workers, riveters, heaters, boys, laborers and horses with teams necessary to the same on the ground with the building the better.

The superintendent tried to make it appear that Comrade Maguire was speaking against machinery, but was completely floored by the comrade who first made it plain to him that Socialists were on to their tricks of making a great noise in order to deceive the people by false pretences and false statements; second, Socialists were in favor of the most perfected machinery possible, and that the Socialist Movement of the world was to get the collective control of it and then there would be no need of the hollow mockery of employing idle labor building Armories to store men-killers in.

The petitions were referred to the Street Committee with power, the chairman of which promised Michael Lambert, of the Carpenters' Union, and a delegation of iron workers, that they would be given a hearing on the matter before action was taken, but broke his promise and held a private meeting of the committee two days before the regular meeting time and gave the Rolling Mill Company the repaired permission, the property owners along the route having given their consent to lay the tracks.

On the regular meeting night of the Street Department Committee the Trade Union Committee appeared to present their side of the case and were informed the matter was settled. The chairman of the committee was reminded of his promise and at first denied it, but owing to the lively discussion he got rattled and gave the whole thing out how the star chamber meeting was held, etc., all of which was duly rehearsed over by Alderman Maguire at the next meeting of the Board.

This is the "Armory" record of an S. L. P. man, who is neither duper nor duped, nor seeks preferment in either capacity, and who, accordingly, when elected, did not, as Mr. Carey, promptly withdraw from the S. L. P. so as to have his hands free to dupe and be duped without running the risk of being held to account by the "narrow" S. L. P.

Fakirs, Fakirs, Skates and Fakirs.

[Written for THE PEOPLE by S. C. Enzenauer, Pomeroy, O.]

When a miner man must tune the lay,
He needs has nasty thing to say.
Just give me ear and space, I pray,
And I'll say it with a will.

For rules and forms I care a curse;
When miners' troubles I rehearse,
I'll tell you in peculiar verse
Of fakirs bad and ill.

We keep a-field some blatherskites,
Who must be paid, whate'er betides.
There's Mike and Tom, ther's Scott and Fred—
And a multitude of fakirs yet
There's Charles, there's Pat and Bill.

Whom we poor simple wights must pay.
While we live hard, they're making hay
In their peculiar fakish way;
They send their bills to us to pay:
Just charge them to the U. M. of A.,
Charge them to me and you.

They make believe the world they shake.
Ah! no, not one a bribe would take,
Tho' odors bad rise in their wake.
At ev'ry bar their thirst they slake,
Some people say they're on the take,
May be that's false or true.

It got into the head of Mike
To call us miners out on strike.
He sent us down a fakish Wight
To lead us simplers in the strike;
He said we might depend on Mike
To aid us strikers in the strike;
But we never saw of aid a mite.
Down on the Pomeroy Bend

This fakir, who came down to us,
Shot off his head and made a fuss;
Of the strike he made an awful muss;
This pure and simple blunderbuss
He fed us full of fakish lore;
We struck for seven months or more;
In direct stress the fight we bore,
But saw of aid or Mike no more—
'Twas all the merest rant.

He talked a lot of tommy rot:
Of aid and of their dread boycott;
Talked much of Micheal what-do-you-call,
The Prima Donna of them all,
Who left us on McKinley Bike—
That fakir skate and blatherskite.
But faith, we now have wended all
Their fakish pictures to the wall,
From roll and scroll we're going to scratch
The whole confounded shooting match:
We want none o' their ilk.

Why should we have these labor stars
Coaching about in Pullman cars
As skittish as the Steeds of Mars
In our hard belabored guild;

Lodging at first-class abodes
Dressed in the latest styles and modes
In screw-tail split and jump-tail coats
And bukskins made o' silk?

When things began to look awry
He packed his grip and said good-bye;
Said he'd return some other day,
The fakir wished to dodge the fray;
Now say, what would you say?

He must leave, he said, his time was up.
The skate began to feel the rub.
The strike broke down, the union up;
Now this is what I'll say:

"You've faked us once; you've had your day;
"Pray ne'er again come our way;
"Begone for aye; let nevermore
"Your fakish shadow dar'n our door,
"You blasted fakes and skates!

"Go where you may go, where you will,
"But ne'er again cross our sill,
"Or better still, go if you will,
"Aye, go down to—Hades!"

Labor Songs.

The attention of the readers of THE PEOPLE is called to the following labor songs:

1.—"The Workingmen's Marseillelse," arranged by H. Mohr.
2.—"Down with Slavery," words selected from Shelley; music by Platon Brounoff.
3.—"The Hand with the Hammer," by Peter E. Burrowes; music by Platon Brounoff.
4.—"On the first of May," by Elisabeth Serber; music by Platon Brounoff.

Price, 10 cents per copy. Send your orders to:

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.,
64 East 4th street, New York City.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

Uncle Sam & Brother Jonathan.

Brother Jonathan—I happened to read the other day a labor paper, and do you know it made me feel very sad for you and such honest workingmen as you. I showed it to my friends at our Millionaire's Club, and all agreed that Socialist workingmen like you who try to raise your people are very much to be pitied.

Uncle Sam—Well, that's becoming interesting. What was it all about that earned for me the pitying sympahty of your fellow labor fleecers.

B. J.—Well, that's alright. We ARE labor-fleecers; I don't deny it, and I excuse for telling me so to my face. Nevertheless, just read those labor papers yourself. See here, if you are living among a lot of wild cowboys, where the best revolver tells, would you unarm yourself and expose yourself to being shot?

U. S.—Not much. I wouldn't.

B. J.—Of course not; no sensible man would. Now here is what that labor paper had. It echoed violently the violent denunciations of the Excelsior Traction Company against the Consolidated Traction Company. The latter, as you know, has a franchise that is about to expire, and it wishes to renew it for a good long term; the former wants to extend its lines and wants the franchise for itself.

U. S.—Well, I suppose you have stock in the Consolidated concern and want to keep the profits, and keep the Excelsior stockholders out?

B. J.—Tat's it exactly. Now, I don't deny that I and my fellow Consolidated stockholders are simply living fine on the backs of our employés.

U. S.—I am glad to hear you admit it.

B. J.—Nor do I deny that we have raked in enormous profits.

U. S.—Good!

B. J.—Nor yet do I deny that we want to keep the snap all to ourselves.

U. S.—Very well. What's your point?

B. J.—My point is that the Excelsior concern does not propose to change things for the better for the workingmen; what that concern is after is to get from us what we now get—

U. S.—Put the plunder into their own pockets, instead of letting it go into yours?

B. J.—Just so. Now, with that object in mind, what do they do? They issue broad-sides at us against "Monopolies". Think of it; they, who already have a sort of monopoly, and who strain after completer monopoly, they start howling against "Monopoly"!

U. S.—It certainly is a choice piece of capitalist fraud.

B. J.—You recognize that?

U. S.—Surely!

B. J.—Well, then, what does that labor paper do but reprint that fraudulent attack on "Monopolies," and call upon the working people to "tear down monopoly" by adopting resolutions and sending them to the Board of Aldermen! Just think of the stupidity of it. If the Excelsior concern at least offered better wages, one might excuse these workingmen for being caught with bait; but not even such bait is on the Excelsior hook. And here they go and take the field against one monopoly simply to build up another. Now I call that stupid: such people have no sense, and when Socialist workingmen bother with the working class they are wasting their labors.

U. S.—Is that your point?

B. J.—Part of it. But my real point is this: You are wrong to run us capitalists down. We are not the bad people you imagine; we simply exercise the wisdom which you admitted there was in being well-armed among wild cowboys. Many of us capitalists would willingly help you, but these workingmen are too stupid to be helped, and therefore your class-struggle is all wrong.

U. S.—Was that your point?

B. J.—Yes; and a good one it is.

U. S.—A damned bad one, I call it.

B. J.—Hey?

U. S.—Let's stick to your cowboy comparison.

B. J.—Very well.

U. S.—Everyone is armed and practising at target shooting; consequently whoever is among them must do likewise for self-protection.

B. J.—Correct!

U. S.—But would you say that your self-protection includes your doing everything to keep up, foment, incite and produce revolver-needing rowdyism?

B. J.—Well—no—

U. S.—And that is just what you do. I might take stock in your claim that there were good men among you, even if you skinned your workers to boot, that I would consider the act of self-preservation in the competitive struggle. But you do worse. With your profits you start and suppart a lot of poisonous capitalist papers that keep the workers in just the deplorable ignorance that you mentioned; you hire and let loose among them a lot of rapscallions who play the Labor Fakir and help to keep the blinkers of ignorance on their eyes; you endow a lot of professorial chairs to teach that Socialism is "un-American"; in short, instead of doing the things that would remove the ignorance of the workers, that you give as an excuse for your skinning them, you and your class do all you can to keep that ignorance alive so as not to lose your pretext for doing what in your heart you must feel to be wrong. The only hopeless task is to convert the capitalist class. We shall fight and we shall throw you down!

CHILD-LABOR.

Fostered Under the Kindly Care of Capitalism and Pure and Simpledom.

It is sometimes argued that the attitude of the Socialist Labor party towards the Labor Fakir is an excessive one. It is not. It is upon facts that each of our charges is founded. So, for instance, the charge that the Capitalist Class politician and the Labor Fakir work in harmony to deceive the worker with the notion that the condition of his class is improving rests on a pyramid of facts. Mr. P. J. McGuire, one of the Assitant-Bottle-Washers of the so-called A. F. of L. furnished the latest illustration. At the recent powwow of this concern he declared that "we" (the pure and simple trades unions) "have abolished child labor." Similar, at all points, is the claim that the Capitalist politician makes. Yet what are the facts? Just the reverse. Upon this point of child-labor the following chapter of the Socialist Almanac will shed valuable light:

By the last census it is made to appear that the number of children employed in "gainful occupations" decreased largely from 1880 to 1890. According to the classification adopted by the Department of Labor (Bulletin 11, July, 1897), which differs somewhat from that of the census but does not affect the totals, the figures are as follows:

	1880.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
In agriculture	721,029	328,115	....	392,914
In fisheries, seafaring, etc	1,776	1,115	....	661
In mining and quarrying	12,488	11,101	....	1,387
In professional services	924	908	....	16
In domestic service	120,644	90,584	....	30,060
In transportation	3,519	5,130	1,611	.....
In manufacturing and mechanical industries	120,255	90,664	....	29,591
In trade (messengers, porters, clerks, etc.)	32,832	37,774	4,942	.....
Laborers (not specified) and all others	104,889	37,622	....	67,267
Total	1,118,356	603,013	6,553	521,896
Apparent net decrease				515,343

Upon investigation it is readily found that these figures are grossly incorrect; so much so, indeed, as to induce the suspicion that their inaccuracy was not altogether the accidental result of carelessness or inefficiency in the primary and fundamental work of enumeration.

In the first place, the comparison of 1890 with 1890 is radically vitiated by a most important difference in age classification. In 1880 the period of age for the persons enumerated as "Children at work" was from 10 to 15, whereas in 1890 the period was only from 10 to 14 years, leaving out the year in which the largest number of children enter "gainful occupations," or wage slavery.

For the purpose of making a comparison possible, a writer in the above mentioned Bulletin 11 of the Department of Labor (July, 1897), without otherwise disputing the census returns so far as they go, assumes that 20 per cent. of the 1,288,864 children 15 years old in 1890, or 257,773, were at work. Adding these to the 603,013 reported as workers from 10 to 14 years of age, his result is a total of 860,786, which apparently shows for the ten years 1880—1890 a reduction of 257,570 (instead of 515,343), in the number of workers from 10 to 15 years old. "This number," he says, "without doubt" approximates "very closely" the actual conditions. Then, evidently well pleased to find that his own correction still leaves some room for just such conclusions as the census would naturally suggest to the unwary, he further observes: "Since 1880 there has been a considerable diminution in the number and proportion of children at work, illustrating the spread of the common school system and the growth of public sentiment against the employment of children of school age in any capacity which tends to deprive them of the opportunity to acquire an education."

Of course it is absurd to say, as the Labor Department does through this writer, that the census figures concerning child labor "illustrate" in any way the school system. What might be true to some extent would be the inverse statement, that the school system—or rather the school attendance—corroborated or failed to corroborate the census figures of child labor. A failure to corroborate would at least be prima facie evidence of the incorrectness of those figures: for the reason, among others, that the statistics of school attendance are carefully and systematically collected by an intelligent corps of teachers, who have at hand the most direct, positive and complete data that it is possible to obtain concerning the children at school, and therefore not at work during the school term; whereas the census statistics of child labor are in most instances collected by untrained enumerators, who moreover depend for their information upon the careless and unverified statements made to them by all sorts of people.

Now, had the writer in question looked into the statistics of the school system for evidences of its own growth he would have had a very different kind of "illustration." He would have found, for instance, that in the great manufacturing States which compose the North Atlantic group—comprising New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the whole of New England—the proportion of school attendance to school population (that is, to the number of children between the ages of 5 to 17 inclusive), fell from 47 per cent. in 1880 to 46 per cent. in 1890, and that in the large cities it fell at a much higher rate. These are notoriously the States in which capitalism "consumes" the largest proportion of that quantity of child labor which comes under the head of "wage workers." Again, he would have found that the reported increase of school attendance was in the Southern States, where the average school term is only about 90 days, and in the Western States, where agriculture is still, as in the South, the leading pursuit of the population; which no doubt accounts for the fact that four-fifths of the reported decrease of child labor is in agriculture, although the apparent falling off in this particular pursuit is itself a mere fiction, for it is a notorious fact that many of the country children who attend school in winter time are employed in the fields during the remainder of the year, yet are not counted as "workers" when they work, as most of them do, for their own parents.

By these vague words, "the growth of public sentiment against the employmnt of children of school age," is no doubt meant the supposed efficacy of the so-called "factory laws" which in various States were passed from 1880 to 1890. Yet it must be well known at the Department of Labor that these laws, even where they are enforced to any extent, do not in the least prevent such employment but simply divert it from manufacturing into commercial establishments. Moreover, in the very light of its own figures, for which it boldly claims the merit of "very close approximation," the Department cannot honestly or intelligently assert that "there has been a considerable diminution in the employment of child labor" in manufacturing and mechanical establishments, since by accepting and taking into account the Department's proposition of children from 14 to 15 years old the already small diminution of 29,000 given by the census of 1890 as compared with the census of 1880 would be cut down to one-half of that number.

It may also be observed that in the above table the reported decrease in the large number of children sweepingly classed under the vague heading of "Laborers, not specified," is 67,000, or over 64 per cent. If the vast and growing army of "bootblacks" and newsboys" is included under this head, no such decrease can have taken place; if it is not included an important omission has been made. On the other hand, considering what we daily see of the growing employment of small children in all commercial establishments, and especially in "department stores," the reported increase of 4,900 under the head of "Trade" (even if corrected by the addition of a proportionate number of children between 14 and 15 years old) is on its face ridiculously small.

That the two last censuses are entirely unreliable in this matter of child labor, is furthermore shown by the stupendous discrepancies between the tables of manufacture and the tables of occupations. In the first, which are made up of figures supplied by the manufacturers themselves, that is, by persons interested in understating the amount of child labor in their service, the number of children employed is 182,000 for 1880 and 121,000 for 1890; whereas in the second, which are made up of data loosely collected by the enumerators, the number (according to the classification of the Department of Labor) is 120,000 for 1880 and 90,000 for 1890. True, it may be observed in extenuation of those discrepancies that the age periods in the two sets of tables do not exactly correspond; but it may again be replied that they are by that fact rendered the more worthless for comparison and conclusion.

There is, indeed, good ground for the prevailing suspicion that the object of such census work, conducted by men sufficiently versed in arithmetic to know what should be done in order to obtain comprehensive and comprehensible results, is only to hide the truth and confuse the public mind.

But there stands glaring above all this statistical darkness the portentous and undeniable fact, that with atotal school population between 5 and 18 years, numbering 20,865,000 in 1896, the average school attendance was only 9,747,000, or 46.7 per cent., and that the average school term for the whole country was only 140 days. From which it may safely be asserted that ignorance is growing apace throughout the United States and that the number of children and youths between the said ages, actually employed for a more or less extended portion of the year in mean, hard and brain-stunting labor cannot be less and is probably more than 5,000,000.

* * *

Allow Capitalism and Pure and Simpledom their way and this will become a land of stunted serfs at one end; Chinese-like Mandarins, riding elephants mad with pride under white parasols at the other end; and, in between, a lackey class—the successors of the Labor Fakir—, acting as go between to soothe the serfs into quiet and living on the cast-off of the rulers.

Stem the tide, ye Socialists!

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name, will attach such name to their communication, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

Work in Independence, Cal.

To THE PEOPLE.—We are a considerable distance from the "madding crowd" of the big cities, but we are as much influenced by the economic environment as though we were right with you. When we came here last February we were called the Anarchist because we dared to criticise capitalistic economics, and some very strong talk was indulged in because of our success in puncturing the gas bags of classical economics; and threats were made to have us removed at least, if not discharged from the service. This has all passed away, and we have quite a number of citizens who will not only listen to our talk but will read with interest any literature we may put intheir hands. Last election, 1896, there were only 2 votes for the S. L. P. in this county; this election there were 20. There were many more who sympathized with the cause but who had not studied economics sufficiently to enable them to see clearly enough to vote for the dimly seen principles upon which International Socialism is founded. We intend to sow the seed of Socialism broadcast so long as we are allowed to remain here. We feel proud that we were one of the pioneers in spreading the principles of Socialism in Eureka, Humb. Co., Cal., and prouder to see the comparatively large vote cast there at the last election.

I find that it is yet too early to start a Section, but feel confident that capitalism will help out considerably, as the number of Trusts that are now being formed will do more to educate the people here and elsewhere in the U. S. than the combined efforts of pioneers like myself. I wish to be reckoned a member of the party that never swerves to the right or left on account of petty motives; but always remains true to principles. Whenever a Section can be formed, you will hear further from this little eyrie in the mountain fastnesses of Southern California.

I notice in the "Evening Bulletin" of Providence, R. I., a compliment apropos of the attitude of the great Socialist newspaper of Germany, the "Vorwaerts." Such compliments are not con amore: they are extracted by the force of the logic of events. It gives a thorough scientific Socialist a thrill of pleasure to be even an insignificant member of such a party and to feel, however humble his efforts, that he is associated with men and women who dare to do their own thinking.

The reason the average politician "got there" with both hands and feet, was because he worked every day in the year while the unthinking voter only devoted several days in the year to his political duty, and even then he too often muddled himself with the cheap beer and whiskey of the average political candidate; and there is no reason that with the same tactics employed in a nobler cause, the uplifting of humanity, that the average Socialist working before, after and between elections should not succeed.

Onward to the Co-operative Commonwealth. J. J. McL.

Independence, Cal., Dec. 12.

Things from Rockville, Conn.

To THE PEOPLE.—We should and shall have at least 100 subscribers for THE PEOPLE in this place, provided the comrades all hustle. Such hustling will carry us to victory next election. Outsiders have no idea how discontented Rockville workers are. Last city election only one-half of the total votes was cast. The factories are all running on short time, despite the pictures of the Advance Agent of Prosperity being nailed on the mill doors.

Rockville is known throughout the land for manufacturing the worsted woolen cloth in the market. Here was made the cloth for the last two Presidents inaugurated. But the weavers are Cleveland and McKinley patches on the seats of their pants. This is bringing many of them to their senses, and I am sure more of them will be with us before long. I think a Weavers' Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance would help us a good deal in bringing them over. Our vote, 270, was a surprise to everybody. C. G.

Rockville, Dec. 12.

A Voice From Distant Vancouver, B. C.

To THE PEOPLE.—How is it that so many well-meaning people, on getting a few Socialist truths into their noddles, at once in their eagerness and ambition to help mankind, and themselves, proceed to organize the Co-operative Commonwealths, the Direct Legislation Leagues, the B. C. C.'s, the Social Democracies, the Majority Rule Leagues, the Social Reform Unions, colony schemes, joint stock companies, Socialist and social reform papers, in short, anything rather than START RIGHT, with a correct understanding of the natural laws governing Social Evolution, by subscribing to the admittedly correct principles based on those laws, which, never successfully controverted, are held by the Socialist Labor parties here and in Europe?

They often ignore entirely the most rational and practical method of bringing about the Socialist Revolution, viz., by means of the ballot in the hands of a class-conscious proletariat; and accordingly sidetrack themselves, mislead their friends and readers, waste their energies and powers in fruitless effort consequent on ignorance of the laws of capitalism's existence.

I am sorry to say that I was for a time, with others, misdirecting my efforts in a fruitless attempt to harmonize what we thought were different parts of "ONE MOVEMENT," viz., the movement of Socialism in Canada, but which we have seen cannot be harmonized, as they are based on different conceptions of the natural laws governing Social Evolution.

I refer to the Forward Club of Socialists, in Brantford, Ont., whose members came through the efforts of Comrades Ashplant and Barter, of London, Ont., and Sanial, of New York, to see the correctness of the position that Social Evolution is the manifestation of the forces of nature, which at this stage of the game the Socialist MUST UNDERSTAND in order to direct and guide them for the welfare and progress of mankind. At a lecture given by Comrade Sanial in Brantford, the members of the Forward Club, almost in a body, joined the newly formed Section of the Canadian S. L. P., and I for one am content with the company I find myself in, as I believe that the position taken by the S. L. P. on the development of society through economic class struggles, the laws of capitalism's existence and the clear-cut methods and tactics consequently adopted are absolutely correct.

Your editorial of July 17 exactly expresses my sentiments, as does the pamphlet "Reform or Revolution," and the "Class Struggle," by A. M. Simons.

Is there no way by which the members of the S. L. P. can reach the Socialists and Social Reformers, who, no doubt, honestly are misleading themselves and others and place the philosophy of Scientific Socialism as taught by Marx, Engels and the Kautsky pamphlets, before them and so induce them to quit "lashing the ocean, irritating and thereby super-inducing crazy attempts at redress that wind up in defeat, nervous reaction, and pessimism," as you truly expressed in Letter Box answer to I. B., N. Y., on November 20?

Not that I think that the S. L. P., as an organization or those organizations affiliated with the S. L. P., should have a monopoly of the Socialist propaganda, but that I wish, and hope, to see the day when the Socialist forces of the U. S. and Canada will be harmoniously working along correct lines.

I submit to our Socialist friends outside the S. L. P. that it is only just and fair to the S. L. P. that we should have a chance to deal with their objections to joining with us in what seems to be the correct tactics and methods—methods proved successful wherever adopted and which will be successful here, as elsewhere, because of the fact that NATURAL LAWS ARE UNIVERSAL and UNCHANGEABLE.

Would it not be a good plan for each Section to see that all those in their district who bona fide call themselves Socialists and Social Reformers, are made aware of "the reason for the faith that is in us." Copies of the pamphlet "Reform or Revolution" and the Kautsky pamphlets would, I think, be most useful for such purposes. Since joining the party, I have done all I could with copies of THE PEOPLE, personal talks and correspondence to help those now groping towards the light and submit to the Sections that such effort will produce good results if done in a spirit of brotherliness and kindness to the personality, while fighting to the death their unscientific theories and propositions.

There will be a meeting of Socialists here next Saturday, Dec. 17, to organise Section Vancouver, S. L. P. of Canada, and nail the banner with the Arm and Hammer to the mast. Long may it wave!

ARTHUR SPENCER.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 12.

The Leaven Working Among Railroaders.

To THE PEOPLE.—I noted the Seidenberg episode in last issue; and as a trades unionist (B. of R. R. T.) am deeply interested.

I have also observed the magnificent effort along the "new" trade union lines pursued by the S. L. P.

Well, two years ago, the Committee on Resolutions at the Toronto convention of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen succeeded in getting the convention to go on record that "Every social question was a political question, etc.," but when in another resolution the existence of the "class struggle" was shown, why, that unhappy but true "effusion" never saw the light of day, i. e., outside of the convention hall, but we are rapidly, as a body, being permeated with, at least, a semi-class-consciousness that labor produces "all" and should receive "all." The "leaven" is working. THE PEOPLE is guided by the only logical tactics, and success is assured.

D. C. B.

Winona, Minn., Dec. 19.

To Purify the Church.

To THE PEOPLE.—I propose a method to purify the Church, which, as a whole, is now being run by the class that grinds the faces of the poor.

I suggest that workers who go to church resign their membership and keep out of churches, giving them neither time, influence nor money.

That they address their pastor on the labor question and have them read such letters to the congregation, giving as a reason for resigning that the church has become capitalistic and the enemy of the poor, while falsely professing friendship, and how that the teachings of Jesus and the Prophets are ignored or perverted by the clergy.

Those who can talk well may attend those meetings where they can speak, and by advocating the poor man's cause compel the parson to declare himself even if they draw upon themselves the enmity of the church and excommunication for heresy or "disturbance of religious meetings." All of which will be helpful for the cause of man, and will force the clergy themselves to keep the poor man's question in the front. Every little helps.

It would be a splendid idea if THE PEOPLE could spare the space to solicit and print model "Letters to Pastors" for the poor to copy and send to their pastors along with their resignations.

It is no easy matter for the average workers to compose suitable and effective letters to their "spiritual advisers."

Let us use our pens to make it easy for them. A SUBSCRIBER.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 19.

Valuable Items from California.

To THE PEOPLE.—California is not behind in the efforts to raise the S. L. P. vote to 100,000 in the United States. The following table shows that the "land of gold" is not the least favorable in the country for the extension of the Socialist work. Our vote two years ago for Presidential Electors was 1,611; our average vote this year is over 7,800.

In some of the counties the gains have been remarkable. In San Diego Co. the rate in 1896 was 71; this year 257. In Shasta, 1896, 9; 1898, 108, a gain of 1,200 per cent. Contra Costa Co., 4 in 1896; 52 in 1898. Ventura Co., 9 in 1896; 74 in 1898. Kern Co., 1896, 1; 1898, 119. San Joriqun Co., 1896, 31; 1898, 162. Sacramento, 1896, 58; 1898, 194. Marin Co. gave a gain of over 800 per cent. Stanislaus Co., 1898, 1; 1898, highest rate 64. Tulare Co., 1896, 31; 1898, 193. Humboldt Co., 1896, 8; 1898, 180. Santa Cruz Co., 1896, 33; 1898, 131. Solano Co., 1896, 10; in 1898 (Burns, Congress), 230, a gain of 1,500 per cent. All above are average votes, except when otherwise stated.

The fight for Governor was bitter and active betweeu the capitalist candidates, Gage, a Los Angeles lawyer, never before a candidate for public office, was the Republican nominee. He put in his time denouncing his opponent as everything that was bad, and putting on the emphasis when he called him "Anarchist AND Socialist." Maguire, the Demo-Popo-Silver candidate, was nominated and endorsed and stood on so many platforms at the same time that he was all tired out before election day. Maguire is the big chief of the single taxers. He was into Delaware with the herd of spell-binders who by their united and awful efforts got about a thousand votes in that State a few years ago. Maguire is a gentleman distinguishable in other ways than by his single tax teachings. He is a brave man. He is the man who at last, when everything was quiet after the '96 election, tried to convince a large audience in this city that Socialism would be a bad thing for the people. Harriman was his opponent, and forced Maguire to defend the single tax. He'll not be caught that way again. Maguire decided in 1896 that the Chicago "Anarchists" (Spies et al) should be hanged. What for he did not clearly state. But they had to be hanged. Henry George echoed this opinion, as coming from a "high" legal authority. Gary also decided they should be hanged; also a high legal authority. Altgeld decided those, who escaped strangling, did not deserve to be even imprisoned; another high—all high—as the English apply the word to meat.

Well, Maguire with all his platforms was not particularly popular with the working classes as is endeuced by the fact that he was beaten in his own city of San Francisco by over 4,000, which went Democratic two years ago. His cry was "anti-monopoly" and particularly anti the Southern Pacific railroad. He called Gage the "S. P. nominee." The result showed the capitalist lawyer with no political record elected by nearly 20,000 majority over the capitalist lawyer of many platforms, "anti-landlord" tendencies and a record of two terms in the U. S. Congress.

The heat of the campaign and the Maguir's pretensions of friendship for "labor" fooled a few yokels who would otherwise have voted for the S. L. P. candidate. But we are pretty well satisfied, as we have a territory about as big as all New England to cover and a comparatively scanty population to work on. Harriman's speaking tours through the State were almost the extent of the general campaigning during the months next proceeding election. He did grand work, and so much pleased are the Socialists that a fund to the amount of $100 per month is well under way to put him on the road for a year. It is practically an assured scheme. If nothing interrupts us, look out for large S. L. P. figures in the returns from California in 1900.

A few days before election there was a strike of the pressmen in all the daily newspaper offices in this city. It was not settled until some days after election, but not ONE LINE regarding the strike was ever published in any daily paper. As soon as the strike was on the whole available force, in some cases including the business managers and proprietors, took up the work of the strikers. When the strikers wanted a "conference" the proprietors laughed at them. When they got ready to surrender the bosses took them back on terms satisfactory—to the bosses. During this trouble a committee from the strikers called on the S. L. P. to solicit help; threatened to vote the Socialist ticket if the bosses didn't "surrender". "Why," said one striker indignantly, "they won't even give us a conference, don't you see?" Of course, the Socialists "saw," and gave the outraged citizens a little good advice. But the lesson was probably lost, for there is no evidence that the strikers voted against their masters.

The church is not in politics, but when it does not wish any candidate elected it has a very proper appreciation of the human voice and well-rounded sentences directed against those it does not desire in office. Rev. Peter S. York, who did an exceedingly good job in beating the blatherskites of the A. P. A. at their own game here a couple of years ago, did not do a very bad job in lending his assistance to the defeat of Maguire et al in the last election. The men—Barry who wanted to fill Maguire's shoes in Congress, and Phelan, who was elected Mayor—who fell under the Rev. Peters's displeasure are men who have been falling over each other in the past to lay their financial and literary tribute at Peter's feet. They were used—and turned down. Barry, an Irishman who has fought the battles of the church in and out of season, and in and out of his paper, was beaten by a Hebrew hat dealer in an Irish district. No, the church is evidently not in politics, but Maguire is out in a letter occupying a page of a daily newspaper, bewailing the presence of a "malicious priesthood," that changed more than 10,000 ignorant voters in the Democratic party into voters for the combined monopolies and villains under the Republican banner.

We have been spared the affliction of much of Rev.—Bliss during this campaign. He is the devout gentleman who cannot teach Socialism unless it is Christian, but who can support the Bourbon Democracy whose bulwarks lie in the saloon quarters and tenderloin districts of the cities of this State as well as elsewhere. In common with several other reformed ministers who have endeavored to make Socialism a shuttlecock with a Christian feather in it. Bliss seems to have "gazed so much on the cross that he can not act on the square."

G. B. BENHAM.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.

"Labor Day" and Labor Day.

To THE PEOPLE.—An outburst of contempt induces me to appeal to you to have these lines printed, in order to be able to refute some of the many slanders which Mr. Samuel Gompers has thrown upon the class-conscious workingmen's movement of our comrades in Europe by saying that they solemnize their Labor Day after their work is done, that means in the evening.

Before I shall prove that Mr. Gompers has uttered a falsehood let us look at the matter a little more closely, let us scrutinize the expression "Labor Day" in this country. We have a Labor Day here, it is true, but it is NOT the first of May. As long as the working class does not appoint the above stated day as THEIR Labor Day, so long does this day not earn the expression "Labor Day." It is nothing else than a holiday as any other Sunday of the year is. But this is not all.

In this country the working class does not fight, does not struggle for the day; no; the capitalist class "allows" the working class to interrupt work and to amuse themselves, very often taking out of their salaries the pay for this day. By no means is the Labor Day universal, as I know many stores which are not even thinking of closing.

The Labor Day of this country is not used to protest against the anarchistic institutions under which we are suffering; it is not used to stop, for at least one day, the exploitation of the proletariat by the ruling class, no it is used as every other holiday granted by the bourgeoisie, namely, for setting either at home or going into next saloon, gossiping about bad times, but for heaven's sake, do not touch the vital point, namely, the concentration of capital.

This is the intelligence Mr. Gompers has awakened on the part of the working class which the "Federation of Labor" embraces. And a man, who has shown his utter incapacity beyond all doubts, dares to scorn the international class-conscious workingmen movement, has the nerve to speak of the Socialists as if they really were the riff-raff of the people.

I do not attempt to criticise Mr. Gompers's speech at the end of the convention; no, this expression is to meek, what I try to do is to denounce a man, who, well knowing the true facts, is telling falsehoods and lies to an audience which knows about Socialism as much as a tiger about mercy.

When we observe our comrades in Europe, whose economic movement is going hand in hand with their political one, then we see a great difference in celebrating the Labor Day. Take, for instance, Vienna.

Labor Day is not "granted" there: a struggle for it ensues every year. Labor Day in Vienna is not a day of rest, it is a day of protestation. As almost no workingman appears in the shop, no wheel is turning, no machine is running, the noise of the hammer can not be heard. On this day the working class of Vienna shows the idle capitalist class that without its aid it can not do anything, it proves that profitmaking has to stop as soon as the working class come to its senses, and last but not least, it shows that the parasite in our present state of society, called capitalist, is wholly dependent upon the working class, that as soon this class takes its own, the means of production, the capitalist is as poor as the workingman, being obliged to go to work or to starve.

But there is no use of getting excited. Mr. Gompers is well aware of the truth of my statements, he realizes full well, that his motto: "No politics in unions," makes the union, the head of which he is, an institution of anarchism, disguised under the mask of "law and order."

Fortunately, the ray of Socialism is breaking forth, and as he feels the ground sinking slowly but surely beneath his feet, and as he is striving to remain on the surface, he is bound to become a slanderer in order to be able to promote his own selfish purposes. The only advise the Socialist can give him is: As you are bound to fall down, sooner or later, go down like a man, showing that you are able to bear hard luck, and make place for a new era of American trades unionism.

RUDOLF GROSSMAN.

New York, Dec. 20.

General Agitation Fund.

Previously acknowledged	$776.16
Michigan State Committee, per Geo. Eastman	2.50
Total	$778.66

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Daily PEOPLE Minor Fund.

Previously acknowledged	$2,276.48
M. L. Morris, Chicago, Ill.	.25
Jos. A. Weil, 28th A. D., N. Y.	3.00
Total	$2,279.73

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Press Fund for the Workers' Republic, Dublin, Ireland.

Previously acknowledged	14.85
Section Washington, D. C., on list 22,	1.25
Section Holyoke, Mass., Branch 1, on list 32	2.50
B. O'Toole, New York City	1.00
Total	$19.60

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

LABOR NEWS COMPANY,

64 East Fourth Street, N. Y.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels: The Communist Manifesto	$0.10
Karl Marx: Capital, bound	2.00
Wage Labor and Capital	.05
Revolution and Counter-Revolution.	1.00
The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon	.25
Frederick Engels: The Development of Socialism from Utopia to Science	.05
The same in cloth, with Introduction and appendix	1.00
The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844	1.25
Ferdinand Lassalle: The Workingman's Programme	.10
What is Capital?	.05
Karl Kautsky: The Capitalist Class	.05
The Proletariat	.05
The Class Struggle	.05
The Co-operative Commonwealth	.05
Belfort Bax: History of the Paris Commune	.25
Paul Lafargue: The Religion of Capital	.05
The Right to be Lazy	.10
Evolution of Property	1.00
Hyndman and Morris: A Summary of the Principles of Socialism	.15
James Connolly: Erin's Hope	.05
J. L. Joynes: The Socialist Catechism	.05
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W. S. McClure: Socialism	.10
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Edward Bellamy: Looking Backward	.50
Equality	1.25
Daniel De Leon: Reform or Revolution	.05
What Means This Strike?	.05
Report of the International Socialist Congress, held at London in 1896	.25
Proceedings of the National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, held at New York in 1896	.10
H. M. Hyndman: Socialism and Slavery	.05
Commercial Crises of the 19th Century	1.00
Edward Aveling: The Student's Marx	1.00
John Hobson: Evolution of Modern Capitalism	1.00
J. K. Ingram: History of Political Economy	1.50
H. D. Lloyd: Wealth against Commonwealth	1.00
David A. Wells: Recent Economic Changes and their Effects on the Production and Distribution of Wealth	2.00
Enrico Ferri: Criminal Sociology	1.50

THE PEOPLE'S New-Years Greeting for 1899.

is out. It is simple in design but very striking and full of effect.

Against a background, dirty from the thick smoke from the many long factory chimneys, rises the muscular figure of a young workingman, holding in his left hand a laurel wreath stating the number of votes cast this year for the S. L. P., and in the uplifted right the weapon with which the victory has been wrung—the Socialist Hammer. The expression in the face as well as the whole attitude is bold, full of determination and embodying in a very forcible way the aggressiveness and militant spirit of our movement and of THE PEOPLE. Suitable inscriptions surround the figure and on the sides are calendar tables.

The colors are very well applied and it presents altogether a very impressive ensemble.

Price 10 cents, sent to any address.

LETTER BOX.

Off-hand Answers to Correspondents.

[No questions will be considered that come in anonymous letters. All letters must carry a bona fide signature and address.]

H., NEW YORK.—No, Sir; THE PEOPLE never takes notice of personal slings, except occasionally when it reproduces them in full to help an offending Editor pillory himself. What THE PEOPLE does take hold of with both hands is attacks on the party policy. Whoever indulges in that is promptly taken over THE PEOPLE'S knees, and then the condign spanking is administered.

E. O. C., WITCHITA, KANS.—What do you mean by "Fraternal Societies"?

P. K., CHICAGO, ILL.—It is impossible to be accurate on the subject of the unemployed. The Census Office deliberately violated in 1880 the order to enumerate the unemployed; when the Census Act for 1890 came along the guilty parties of 1880 managed to get a clause in by which they could neglect the matter of the unemployed. In an 1889 or 1890 issue of "The Nationalist" of Boston, the matter was exposed in an article entitled "The Eleventh Census Conspiracy," and an attempt is there made to figure up the unemployed. Unassisted by any Census figures, any one who tries to ascertain the number of the unemployed has to work his way through a variety of other public documents, and consequently there must be wide discrepancies among them. Our official statisticians don't like to take up the question; it is a sore spot with them: it gives capitalism away faster than the rosy figures of wages that they forge.

L. D., WORCESTER, MASS.—When the capitalist class surrenders it will have to be to the victor. Who do you imagine that victor will be?

Capital and Labor are two factors in the production of wealth.

C. C., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.—There is inherently in expansion nothing that is capitalistic. Its present capitalist breath is a result of the capitalist interests that would be served by it. Moreover, to fight expansion, as such, to-day, one would have to rank himself with other capitalist interests whose interests are against expansion. We must guard against dogmatism.

J. W., SCHENECTADY, N. Y.—Yes, the Alliance is small; what of that? Would that be a reason to reject it? If so, why not reject the S. L. P.; it also is small and was a good deal smaller. While an organization that is and remains of a size below that which is requisite to accomplish results would be an inefficient orgaulization, nevertheless, at its inception a numerically weak body is not to be gauged by numbers only.

L. S., NEW HAVEN, CON.—You are partly answered just above, as to your other point: One year the workers swing over, dissatisfied, to the Republicans; dissatisfied again, they swing over the next year to the Democrats. Now imagine the Socialists to preach to the workers the iniquities of the Democratic and the Republican party, and yet not set up a party where people could go, what would they be thought of? They would be thought to be visionaries, unpractical men and justly so. Likewise with the trades organizations. It was a common experience for men to get disgusted with the A. F. of L. and join the K. of L.; to get disgusted with the K. of L. and join the A. F. of L., and so on. To tell the workers that both organizations were corrupt and useless and not set up an independent one would have been the same as to denounce Reps and Dems without setting up the S. L. P. The men would stay within the old organizations; with their dues they would support the fakirs; and the fakirs, having the backing of the bosses especially against the Socialist workingmen, could down the Socialists to their heart's content. That's what once used to be, and that sort of policy suited the fakirs to a T.

E. G. C., ROGERVILLE, IA.—The matter can not be published in THE PEOPLE. The walls of Jericho may have dropped down before the trumpet blasts of the Jews, but the walls of Capitalism won't, however many Biblical quotations you toot against them.

W. W., BROOKLYN, N. Y.—We won't know the S. L. P. vote cast in the Sixth Election District of the Eleventh Brooklyn Ward until the Official Record of the city is printed. Shall let you know when that comes out.

"JERE," JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Macaulay is elegant English to read, but he is more superficial than the meal on a butterfly. His attempts to make out the English people a particularly moral people, whom morality impelled at every step, is constantly jolting against the facts he quotes himself and which go to show the material interests at bottom of all acts,—and he does not even seem to be aware of his contradiction.

A. L. G., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—Mr. Gompers was born in England. He is a Jew.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—Your letters on the "As to Methods" editorial of Dec. 4 are not published because they are all in favor; so far only one hostile criticism has been received, it was published together with about four in favor. It seems superfluous to publish more approvals; should any other adverse ones come in, yours will be issued.

The numerous calls that have come in for the New Bedford speech "What Means This Strike?" published in these columns a few weeks ago, has determined the National Executive Committee to reprint it in pamphlet form. It can be had at the Labor News Company, 64 E. 4th street, this city. Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies, 30 cents; 100 copies, $2.50.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

SOCIALISM AND ITS RELATION TO SOCIAL EVOLUTION.

[By Julian Pierce, Washington, D. C., in "Typographical Journal."]

In the "Journal" for October 15 there appeared an essay by C. L. Emens, of Cincinnati, Ohio, entitled "A Middle Road—Extereme Positions to Be Avoided." Mr. Emens is undoubtedly influenced by worthy motives and actuated by a sincere desire to benefit the working class; but, like so many writers in trades union press, he has evidently given the labor problem no more than a superficial examination, and consequently has fallen into confusion so great that one is almost at a loss where to begin the work of scientific clarification.

Speaking of the late controversy over the proposition to withdraw from the American Federation of Labor, he asserts that the Federation is reactionary and needs reforming, and adds:

On the other hand, the advocates of Socialism would certainly render the cause of labor a better service if they would come down from the sky and advocate practical measures. Granted that we have at present entered upon a period of transition—from the competitive to the co-operative system—still the goal can only be reached by the process of evolution, and violent or radical measures are as ill-advised as none at all.

In the above paragraph there are these two fundamental errors:

First—That the present is a period of transition from the competitive to the co-operative system.

Second—That the Socialists do not advocate practical measures.

Scientific treatment of any question can not be accomplished with brevity, and an analysis of the fallacies contained in both of the above errors would require more space than the editor of the "Journal" has placed at my disposal; and, inasmuch as the classifying of a measure as practical or impractical depends upon a clear knowledge of the nature of the social evolution through which we are struggling, I shall treat in this paper of the first fundamental error that Mr. Emens has made, namely, classifying the present as a period of transition from the competitive to the co-operative or Socialist system of production.

Rather than being a transition from the competitive to the co-operative or Socialist system of production, the present is a period of transition from the competitive system of production to the non-competitive or trust system of production; and whether the historian of the future shall be able to refer to it as a period of transition from the competitive to the co-operative or Socialist system depends entirely on the will of the people. Now the will of the people is made up of the individual wills of millions of men and women, but the will of the individual man or woman is determined by the ideas of that man or woman, and those ideas are shaped by the processes of education. Should the people determine that the trust system of production is good enough, the present would be nothing more than a period of transition from the competitive system to the trust system; but should the people, on the contrary, determine that the Socialist system would be an improvement on the trust system, then it could be truly said that the statement made by Mr. Emens is correct.

From the standpoint of Socialist science, however, the present is nothing more than a period of transition from the competitive system to the trust system. The truth of this proposition can be readily seen by an illustration—always the best definition. That there can be an utter absence of competition in every industry in the country, and at the same time an utter absence of co-operation, may be seen by an examination of one typical industry. The Standard oil trust is an example of an industry in which the practice of competition has been done away with; but, using the word in the Socialist sense, there is no co-operation in the methods of the Standard oil trust. Socialist co-operation implies not alone associated or co-operative labor in production and distribution, but demands, furthermore, co-operative sharing in the wealth produced by such associative production and distribution. There is to-day co-operative labor in the production and distribution of oil, but there is no co-operation in sharing the wealth that results from such production and distribution.

This peculiar kind of co-operation may be called "capitalist co-operation," for under its workings co-operation is nothing more than a machine by which the capitalists get more wealth out of the working class. A thousand men working together under a system of highly-organized division of labor will produce much more wealth in a given time than would the same thousand men working on the old individual plan. The capitalist class has discovered this, and it makes use of the increased productivity of co-operative labor over individual labor just the same as it makes use of the increased productivity of machine labor over hand labor. Summing up the whole thing in a few words, we have to-day in many industries capitalist co-operation, which is a system of production under which the productivity of the working class is largely increased by grouping it in hundreds and in thousands (co-operative labor), while the capitalist class alone enjoys the increased wealth that results from this co-operation—the working class co-operates for the benefit of the capitalist class.

The Socialist discerns these facts. He also discovers that great benefit would result to society at large, and to the working class in particular, if the organization of society were so changed that every member of it should share in the results of both machinery and co-operative labor. He observes further, that the majority of the working class has grasped neither the nature of the present system of production nor the possibilities of life under the Socialist system, and therefore he considers it a partiotic duty to present these truths to his fellow-craftsmen.

It is true that in this development of industrial society from the competitive to the trust, the Socialist sees the evolution of society, but he realizes also that the evolution of society is entirely different from the evolution of a plant or the physical evolution of man. The evolution of a plant in the depths of the forest is governed by the slow processes of natural evolution; but it is a grave error to imply that the evolution of society is governed by similarly slow processes. A plant has not in it the power to hasten or retard its own evolution, while society, being made up of individuals, has this power. From having learned that evolution in plant and animal life is something snail-like and weird, Mr. Emens has evidently drawn the illogical conclusion that the evolution of society is identical in nature. Evolution has been defined as the "act of unfolding," and in society this act of unfolding can be aided by human knowledge and human effort. Therefore, this "slow process of evolution," if unaided by human knowledge and human effort, will become still slower, and the goal, which Mr. Emens admits is a desirable one, will be farther off than ever.

A few paragraphs from Kautsky's* "The Co-operative Commonwealth" will be found instructive on this point of social evolution, as well as on the Socialist's position relative to the "practical" reforms that Mr. Emens and others think so much of. Kautsky says:

For the last hundred years thinkers and statesmen among the possessing classes have been trying to prevent the threatened downfall of the system of private property in the instruments of production—i. e., to prevent the social revolution. Social reform is the name they give to their perpetual tinkerings with the industrial mechanism for the purpose of removing this or that ill effect of private property in the instruments of production, or at least of softening its edges, without, however, ever touching private property itself. During the last hundred years manifold "cures" have been huckstered and even tried; it is now hardly possible to imagine any new recipe in this line. All the so-called "newest" panaceas of our social quacks, which are to heal the old social ailments quickly, without pain and without expense, are, upon closer inspection, discovered to be but rehashes of old nostrums, all of which have been tried before in other places and found worthless.

Just then some one cried out, as we often hear them crying out to-day: "So you are opposed to reforms, are you?" To which question the author replies as follows:

Let not the position of the Socialists be misunderstood. He pronounces these social reforms inoperative in so far as they pretend to remove the growing contradictions, which the course of economic development brings out into ever stronger light, between the powers of production and the existing system of property, at the same time that they strive to uphold and to confirm the latter. But the Socialist does not thereby mean that the social revolution, i. e., the abolition of private property in the instruments of production, will be accomplished of itself; nor that the irresistible, inevitable course of evolution will do the work without assistance from man; nor yet that all social reforms are worthless, and that nothing is left to those who suffer from the contradictions between the modern powers of production and the system of property but idly to cross their arms and patiently to wait for better days.

And let me here insert, for the benefit of those who do not understand a good deal of Socialist agitation, that we know that as individuals we can hasten the evolution of society toward the co-operative commonwealth; that we know, further, that the working class acting as a unit could bring about the realization of such goal in less than a decade, and that by refusing to act as a unit it can put it off for a century or longer; and the keynote to our appeal for solidarity on both the political and trades union fields may be clearly found in these further quotations from Kautsky:

When the Socialist speaks of the irresistibleness and inevitableness of the social evolution, he of course starts from the belief that men are men, and not puppets; that they are beings endowed with certain necessities and impulses, with certain physical and mental powers which they will seek to put to their best uses. Patiently to yield to what may seem unavoidable, is not to allow the social evolution to take its course, but to bring it to a standstill.

When the Socialist declares the abolition of private property in the instruments of production to be unavoidable, he does not mean that some fine morning, without their helping themselves, the exploited classes will find the ravens feeding them. The Socialist considers the breakdown of the present social system to be unavoidable, because he knows that the economic evolution inevitably brings on those conditions that will compel the exploited classes to rise against this system of private ownership; that this system multiplies the number and the strength of the exploited, and diminishes the number and the strength of the exploiting classes, both of whom are still adhering to it; and that it will finally lead to such unbearable conditions for the masses of the population that they will have no alternative but either to go down in silence, or to overthrow that system of property.

Such a revolution may assume manifold forms according to the circumstances under which it is effected. It by no means must necessarily be accompanied with violence and bloodshed. There are instances in the history of mankind when the ruling classes were either so exceptionally clear-sighted, or so particularly weak and cowardly, that they submitted to the inevitable and voluntarily abdicated. Neither is it necessary that the social revolution be decided at one blow; such probably never was the case. Revolutions prepare themselves by years and decades of economic and political struggles; they are accomplished under constant ups and downs sustained by the conflicting classes and parties; not infrequently are they interrupted by long periods of reaction.

Nevertheless, however manifold the forms may be which a revolution may assume, never yet was any revolution accomplished without vigorous action on the part of those who suffered most under the existing conditions.

When, furthermore, the Socialist declares those social reforms that stop short of the overthrow of the present system of property to be unable to abolish the contradictions which the present economic development has produced, he by no means implies that all struggles on the part of the exploited against their present sufferings are useless within the framework of the existing social order; or that they should patiently accommodate themselves to all ill-treatments and forms of exploitation, which the capitalist system may decree to them; or that, so long as they are at all exploited, it matters little how. What he does mean is, that the exploited classes should not overrate the social reforms, and should not imagine that through them the existing conditions can be rendered satisfactory to them. The exploited classes should carefully examine all proposed social reforms that are offered to them.

And if Kautsky had had before him a history of American Populism, American anti-trust legislation, and American anti-department store movements, he could not have penned a more accurate congelation of fact than is contained in these two short paragraphs:

Nine-tenths of the proposed reforms are not only useless but positively injurious to the exploited classes. Most dangerous of all are those schemes, which, aiming at the salvation of the threatened social order, shut their eyes to the economic development of the last century. The workingmen, the exploited classes generally, who take the field in favor of such schemes waste their energies in a senseless endeavor to revive the dead past.

Many are the ways in which the economic development may be affected: it may be hastened and it may be retarded; its edge may be dulled, or it may be sharpened; only one thing is impossible—to stop its course, much less to turn it back. Experience teaches that all attempts in this direction are not only profitless, but increase the very sufferings which they were intended to remove.

Attention should here be emphatically called to the fact that the evolution of society from capitalism to Socialism can be hastened, and, as well, that it can be retarded. The Socialist desires to hasten this evolution, and for this reason you never hear him railing against the concentration of industry, the development of the department store, the elimination of the small farmer, or the trustification of railroads and other industries. He realizes that these developments cause a great deal of suffering to the working class, but he also knows that a new society is gradually being born, and that, being a part of that society, he must share the pangs of the birth. And when he pleads for Socialism, he pleads for it because he knows that degradation, misery, and starvation are the accompaniments of the evolution and birth of the new social order only so long as the capitalist class directs that evolution and that birth. In the hands of Socialism such evolution and such birth would be accompanied with none of the horrors of the present capitalist regime.

In closing, I would like to emphasize this point: The evolution of society from capitalism to Socialism may be slow or rapid. It will be slow so long as the working class does not understand the meaning of capitalism and the meaning of Socialism. It will be rapid when the working class does understand the meaning of capitalism and the meaning of Socialism. And every "radical" and "violent" action advocated by the Socialist Labor party is an attempt to hasten the social evolution by spreading among the working class a clear knowledge of those two widely-distant poles of social organization, capitalism and Socialism.

* "The Co-operative Commonwealth" is one of the four Kautsky pamphlets published by the Labor News Company. Every one who desires to understand the principles of Socialism should read these pamphlets. 5 cents a piece.

OFFICIAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Henry Kuhn, 184 William street, N. Y.

NATIONAL BOARD OF APPEALS—Secretary Robert Bandlow, 193 Champlain street, Cleveland, O.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY OF CANADA.—National Executive Committee—Secretary George Moore, 61 Ryde street, Montreal.

NOTICE.—For technical reasons, no party announcements can go in that are not in this office by Tuesdays, 10 p. m.

National Executive Committee.

Meeting of December 27, with P. Murphy in the chair. Absent: Kinnealy, Wherry, Stahl; the latter excused. The financial report for the week ending December 24 showed receipts $63.96; expenditures, $55.51.

A letter was received from Squire E. Putney, of Section Somerville, Mass., lauding Carey, of Haverhill, and advising amalgamation with the S. D. P. The tone and contents of the letter being such as to make advisable a public reply, the secretary was instructed to draft the same and submit it at the next session for approval. Copies of the Putney letter to be sent to the Massachusetts State Committee and to his Section.

Section Pittsburg, Pa., reported the expulsion of W. S. Tuescher, for affiliation with another political party.

A report was received that the Italian comrades of Pittsburg and vicinity, who are in possession of a printing outfit, had voted to turn the same over to the party on condition that it be placed at the disposal of whatever recognized party paper that was published in the Italian language. It was asked that the N. E. C. bear the cost of shipping the outfit from Pittsburg to be used for "Il Proletario." The secretary was empowered to take such action as the situation demands.

The secretary was further instructed to issue a call for nominations for seven members of the National Executive Committee and for the National Secretary.

A charter was granted for a new Section at Lenz Station, Ill.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Secretary.

A Call.

To the Sections of the S. L. P. in Greater New York.

The above Sections are hereby called upon to make nominations as follows: For seven members of the National Executive Committee and for the National Secretary.

The nominations made should be sent to the undersigned not later than Saturday, February 4, 1899, on which day the nominations close.

Branches of Section Greater New York must send their nominations to the organizer of said Section: L. Abelson, 64 East Fourth street, New York, who in turn will forward the same to the N. E. C. All other Sections must send them directly to the undersigned.

By order of the National Executive Committee, S. L. P.

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts State Committee finds that the party, having polled at the last State election at least 3 per cent. of the total vote for Governor, it is entitled to recognition as a political party, and in order to retain our party name and maintain our standing as an official political party we must organize according to the Acts of 1898, Chapter 548. Therefore, the Mass. State Committee recommends that the Sections promptly secure the Election Acts of 1898 and begin to organize into Ward, Town and City Committees to be complete not later than the first day of June, 1899.

The vote on proposition of paying the Mass. State Committee Secretary a salary of $10 per month, which closed Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 p. m., was as follows: 195 for and 25 against.

Two Section returns received too late to be recorded.

L. D. USHER, Secretary.

Michigan.

Headquarters Michigan State Central Committee, S. L. P.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 25, 1898.

Comrades of Michigan:—Your Committee in whose hands you entrusted the work of the State campaign of 1898 beg leave to render the following report:

Organized Jan. 19, 1898; reorganized Aug. 7, 1898.

The reorganized Committee wishes, in justice to itself, to explain that while some of them were members of the Committee when first organized, that circumstances prevented them from taking an active part in the Committee to any extent until its reorganization, Aug. 7, since which time we all have diligently endeavored to do all within our power with the means provided to forward the interests of the S. L. P. in Michigan, and render just and accurate account of funds entrusted to our keeping, and a useful expenditure of that which has been disbursed by us.

Upon our organization it is a fact which must be admitted that there was a lack of organization of the party in this State, a condition which has been somewhat overcome at this time. Yet there is now vast room for improvement.

Who is to blame for this we do not wish to pass an opinion other than to say, all of us are partially to blame, every member in the party is to blame, some from ignorance of what to do, and others possibly of neglect of duties, as members of the party.

Be that as it may, it is now an opportune time for us to take advantage of the work that has been done this year, and follow it up with renewed vigor and increased energy that will in 1900 show the value of organization.

Two healthy Sections have been added to our organization within the year; practically three, as Section Saginaw has organized into two Branches for the purpose of a more thorough propaganda among the different nationalities or people speaking different languages, each carrying on its propaganda work in the language best understood by them. More Branches are forming of the same nature there, and an interest which is commendable has sprung up in Saginaw which at this time is encouraging.

Section Colfax, only lately organized, report progress and interest in the work. Aid in the way of public meetings in their locality should be rendered by the State Committee and the Secretary is trying to arrange for such at an early date.

We wish to call the attention of persons who have been members of the party, or who wish to become so, and have not enough comrades to form a Section, that they should at once place themselves upon the list members at large, by sending their names to the Secretary of the State Committee, thus coming in close touch with every movement of the party in the State, as well as to keep posted on what the party expects of them.

This will also give the State Committee valuable assitance in informing them where they have those that can be depended upon to do all in their power to assist in the work of carrying on the propaganda of the party.

Such systematic work must be resorted to by us, who have not the means of going and coming at will. But having communication by Postal service at all times would furnish us with information sought, so that we would have a grasp of the whole situation within our jurisdiction and be able to proceed, not blindly, but intelligently in our work.

Therefore, awake! Every Sympathizer as well as comrade in Michigan let us have an organization with such a system we can present a front to capitalism that there will be no resisting it, or flanking.

Let each comrade take notice of every thing of interest in his locality and at once communicate the same to the State Central Committee, such as political meetings, union meetings, resolutions adopted by any and all organizations of a public nature, or meetings to be held, for what purpose, etc., etc.

This would put the Committee in touch with every move for or against the party in the State, and they could take such action as was possible under the circumstances to do, such as sending literature either of Socialistic nature already published, or get out some upon the subject, to be distributed by the local comrade or sympathizer.

We have, so far as we have been able, held meetings for propaganda work for the party in and near Detroit, as the means at our disposal were so limited that it was impossible to do more, and the lack of correspondence in other parts of the State hindered us to a great extent in doing more work than we did in the distribution of literature.

However, the Secretary has reached a number with the small amounts of literature at his disposal, and has been diligent in trying to accumulate addresses for this purpose.

That a more thorough organization is necessary to safely guard our vote is conclusively shown by the returns in this city, which shows many precincts as "no Socialist vote," when we are absolutely sure that there were votes cast for the party, because we cast them ourselves.

In conclusio we would say that the State Committee work is now in better condit on in every way, together with a better understanding of its duties, we believe, than it has ever been before, as we have got our records in shape so in future they can be referred to for necessary information of party work, a thing that this Committee upon entering upon its duties could not do.

Again asking that members and sympathizers throughout the State will at once file their names with the Secretary and that Organizers will be prompt in sending in proper reports as required by the constitution, we respectfully sign our selves.

Respectfully and fraternally,
STANLEY KLEMDENT,
HENRY ULBRICHT, Jr.,
AUGUST BURMIESTER,
JOSEPH DYKE,
A. MONSBACH,
H. RICHTER,
GEO. A. EASTMAN,
Members Michigan State Central Committee, 1898.

By order of Committee,
GEO. A. EASTMAN, Secretary,
138 Orchard St., or 90 Griswold St.,
Detroit, Mich.

New York.

BROOKLYN.—American Branch 1 holds Sunday evening lectures at Wurzler's Hall, 315 Washington street. This evening, H. Simpson will speak on "Colonial Expansion." After the lecture, a business meeting of the Branch will be held, during which the election of officers for the ensuing year will take place. The public is invited to attend the lectures. Members are urgently requested to be present at the business meeting.

BUFFALO.—New Year's Eve Entertainment. This Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8 p. m., the Buffalo Socialists will hold in Labor Lyceum, 676 Genesee street, a New Year's entertainment, consisting of sluging, dancing, comical recitations, etc. Admission free to all. Those, however, who wish to take part in the main feature of the programme—the supper—are requested to buy the necessary coupons at the Labor Lyceum. Price for adults, 25 cents; children, between 3 and 14 years, 15 cents.

Sunday, January 1, at 8 p. m., the American Branch will hold in Labor Lyceum a discussion meeting where discussion will be continued on the subject of municipal ownership. Everybody welcome.

Ohio.

SECTION CANTON, ATTENTION!—All members of Section Canton, Ohio, are urgently requested to attend the meeting on Sunday, Jan. 1, 1899, at 2 p. m. sharp. Election of officers and other business of importance to be transacted. All members holding money for the agitation fund are expected to make an account of same.

ORGANIZER.

Pennsylvania.

Collection on lists in Philadelphia for S. L. P. State campaign:

Barnes, J.	$10.00
Parker, H. C.	15.00
De Bruyn, J.	5.00
Long, F.	5.00
Anton, G. G.	4.00
Clark, Samuel	4.00
Fish, L.	6.03
Froehlich, J.	2.00
Greenwold, F.	26.45
Haukozy, J.	6.35
Leshenkohl, E.	16.60
Keller, Max	1.20
Marshand, F.	5.00
Petzold, G.	10.00
On Wittemberg list, Ackerman, R., $5; Wanner, J. O., $5; Eppler, J., $3; Barcus, O. L., $2; Clark & Baier, $5; Wittenberg, L., $5; total	25.00
Weber, Julius	4.50
Strich, Frank	5.25
Bookman, I.	5.00
Hilgers, J.	10.20
Total	$166.55

J. MAHLON BARNES.

Washington, D. C.

The first meeting of the Twentieth Century Labor League will be held at Labor Bureau Hall, C street, N. W., between 6th and 7th, on Sunday evening, Jan. 1, at 7:30 p. m. Julian Pierce will deliver a lecture on "Capital, Capitalists, and the Capitalist System of Production." The first chapter of Kautsky's "The Capitalist Class" will be used as collateral reading. All members of the Section are urged to come, and each one is requested to bring at least one person unfamiliar with the principles of Socialism.

SECREARY.

British Columbia.

TO ALL SECTIONS HAVING BY-LAWS.—Section Vancouver, B. C., S. L. P. of Canada was organized with 23 members. Will all Sections having by-laws kindly send the undersigned a copy of same so that we may be aided by the collective wisdom of our Canadian and American comrades.

W. J. RAWLINGS,
217 Harris street, Vancouver, B. C.

The English translation of Karl Marx' Eighteenth Brumaire," that recently ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx' picture as frontispiece. This work is of great value. No Socialist, even though he be no student, and no student, even though he be no Socialist, can afford to be without it. Apply Labor News Co., 64 E. 4th street, N. Y. City. Price 25 cents.

GRAND ANNUAL

MASQUERADE & CIVIC BALL

— GIVEN BY THE —

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("Arbeiter-Zeitung" Publishing Association)

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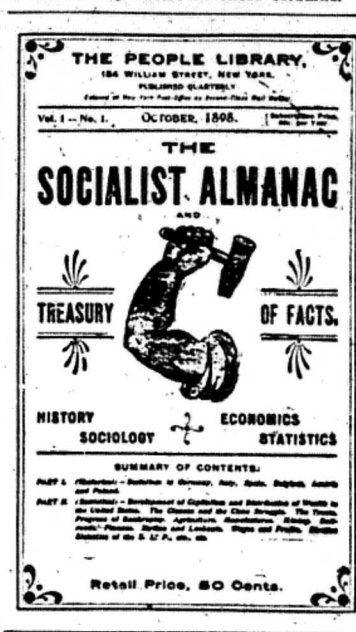
In order to accommodate comrades who wish to subscribe to two or more of the party's organs, we have made arrangements for reduced rates as follows: THE PEOPLE (50c.) and the "Tocsin" (50c.) both for 80c. a year; THE PEOPLE and the "Class Struggle" ("New Charter") (50c.) both for 80c. a year; or all three (at regular rates $1.50) for $1.20 a year.

These offers will remain in force until withdrawn by notice in these columns.



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Trades' and Societies' Calendar

Standing advertisements of Trades Unions and other Societies (not exceeding five lines) will be inserted under this heading hereafter at the rate of $5.00 per annum.

Organizations should not lose such an opportunity of advertising their places of meetings.

GENERAL OFFICE, SOCIALIST TRADE AND LABOR ALLIANCE: 23 Duane street, Room 96, New York City. General Secretary: William L. Brower. Financial Secretary Murphy. General Executive Board Meetings: 1st, 3d and 5th Thursday evenings at 8 p. m. Secretary Board of Appeals: Max Keller, 1051 Hope street, Philadelphia, Pa.

CENTRAL LABOR FEDERATION OF NEW YORK. Meets at 2:30 every Sunday afternoon at 64 E. 4th street, New York City. All bona-fide trade and labor Unions should be represented. Communications are to be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, Ernest Bohm, 64 East 4th street, New York City.

SECTION ESSEX COUNTY, S. L. P. The County Committee representing the Section meets every Sunday, 10 a. m., in the hall of Essex County Socialist Club, 78 Springfield avenue, Newark, N. J.

21st WARD, BRANCH 2, S. L. P., Brooklyn. Lectures on political, economic and social questions at the Club House, 1666 Myrtle avenue, every Sunday evening. Regular meetings every first and third Monday.

CARL SAHM CLUB (MUSICIANS' UNION). Meetings every Tuesday at 8 p. m., at 64 East 4th street, New York Labor Lyceum. Business Secretary:

CIGARMAKERS' PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL UNION No. 90. Office and Employment Bureau: 64 East 4th street.—District I (Bohemian), 331 East 71st street, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District II (German), at 10 Stanton street, meets every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District III meets at the Clubhouse, 206 East 70th street, every Saturday at 7:30 p. m.—District IV meets at 342 West 42d street, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—The Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at Faulhaber's Hall, 1551 2nd avenue, at 8 p. m.

EMPIRE CITY LODGE (MACHINISTS) meets every 2d and 4th Wednesday evening at the Labor Lyceum, 64 East 4th street. Secretary: PETER STAPLE.

GERMAN WAITERS' UNION OF NEW YORK. Office: 385 Bowery, Union Hall, 1st floor. Meetings every Friday at 8 p. m. Board of Supervisors meets every Wednesday at 4 p. m., at the same hall. Telephone Call: 1751 Spring street.

MUSICAL PROTECTIVE ALLIANCE, No. 1028, D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., Headquarters 79 East 4th street. Meetings every Friday at 12 o'clock noon. Fred Hartmann, Pres.; Aug. Lantz, Corr. Sec'y, 79 E. 4th street.

METAL SPINNERS' UNION OF NEW YORK AND VICINITY meets every second and last Friday in the month at 8:30 o'clock at 231-233 E. 33rd street. Initiation fee after January 1, 1899, will be $2.

SOCIALIST SCIENCE CLUB, S. L. P., 34th 35th A. D. S. E. Cor. of 3d ave. and 140th street. Open every evening. Regular business meeting every Friday.

SKANDINAVIAN SECTION, S. L. P. Meets second and fourth Sunday of every month at 10:30 o'clock a. m., at Teutonia Assembly Rooms, 158-160 3d avenue, New York City. Subscriptions orders taken for the Scand. Socialist Weekly, Scand. Am. Arbetaren.

PROGRESSIVE CLOTHING CUTTERS & TRIMMERS' UNION, L. A. 68 of S. T. & L. A. Headquarters, 64 East 4th street, Labor Lyceum. Regular meeting every Thursday evening at 8 p. m.

THE SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF YIRKVILLE meets every Monday evening at 206 E. 86th st. The Society aims to educate its members in a thorough knowledge of Socialism by means of discussions and debates. Come and join.

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Address all communications to HENRY STAHL, Financial Secretary, 25-27 3d avenue, Room 53, New York City.

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